QUEEN EMERALDUS Vol 4

PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS

TRANSLATED BY
KATATONIA
TLC BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO

COME JOIN US TODAY!

LEIJI MATSUMOTO:

NOTHING CAN STAND BEFORE THE QUEEN EMERALDUS. HAVING SAVED UMINO HIROSHI, EMERALDUS SETS SAIL ON ANOTHER WANDERING VOYAGE, WHERE ANOTHER VOYAGE AWAITS... THIS IS THE CONCLUDING VOLUME OF THE POPULAR SCI-FI ROMANCE!!

Kodansya Comics MAGAZINE KCM 564

Queen EMERALDUS

KC MAGAZINE C

STORY AND ART:
BY L. MATSUMOTO

Queen EMERALDUS 4

KC MAGAZINE C

LEIJI MATSUMOTO

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Kodansya Comics

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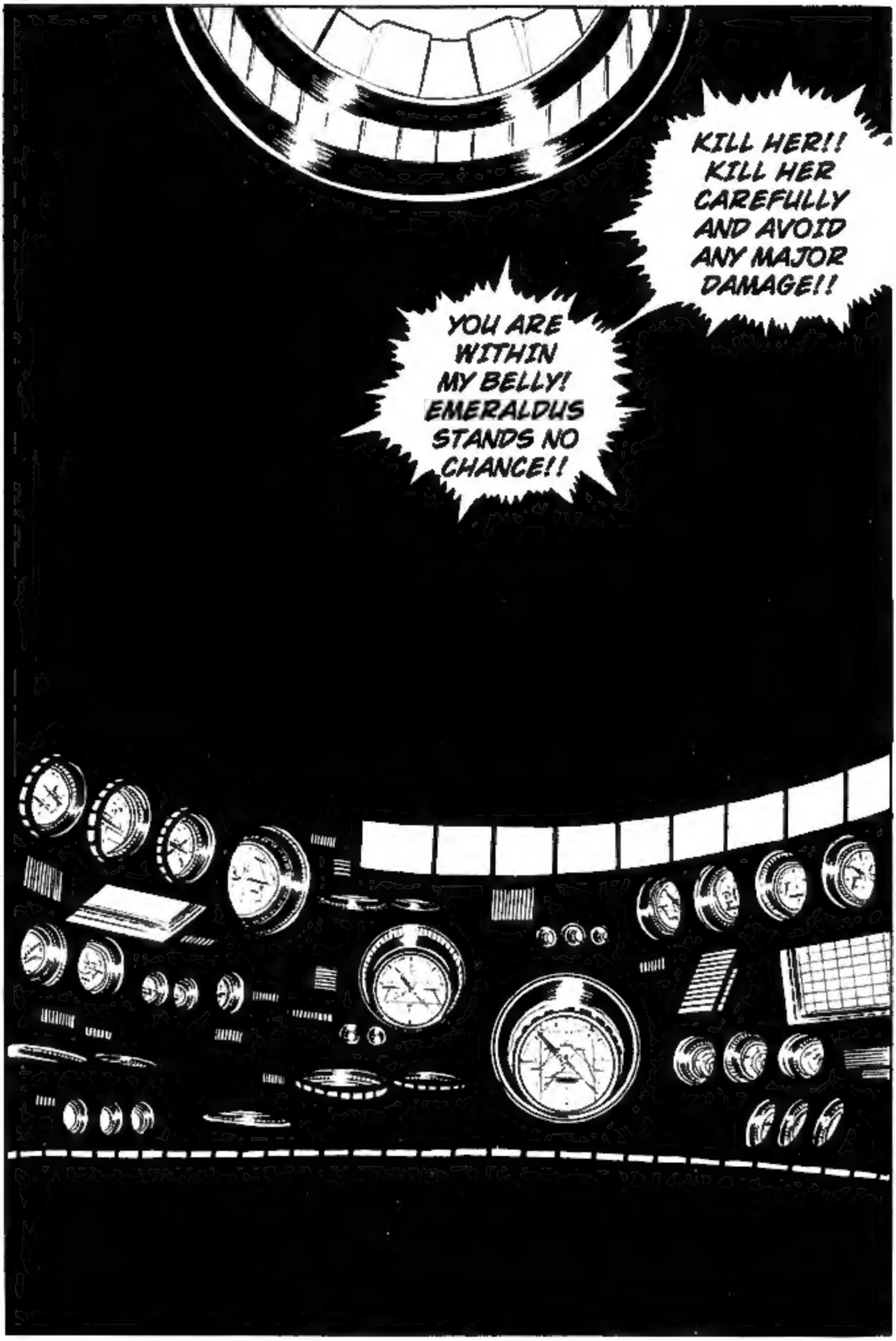
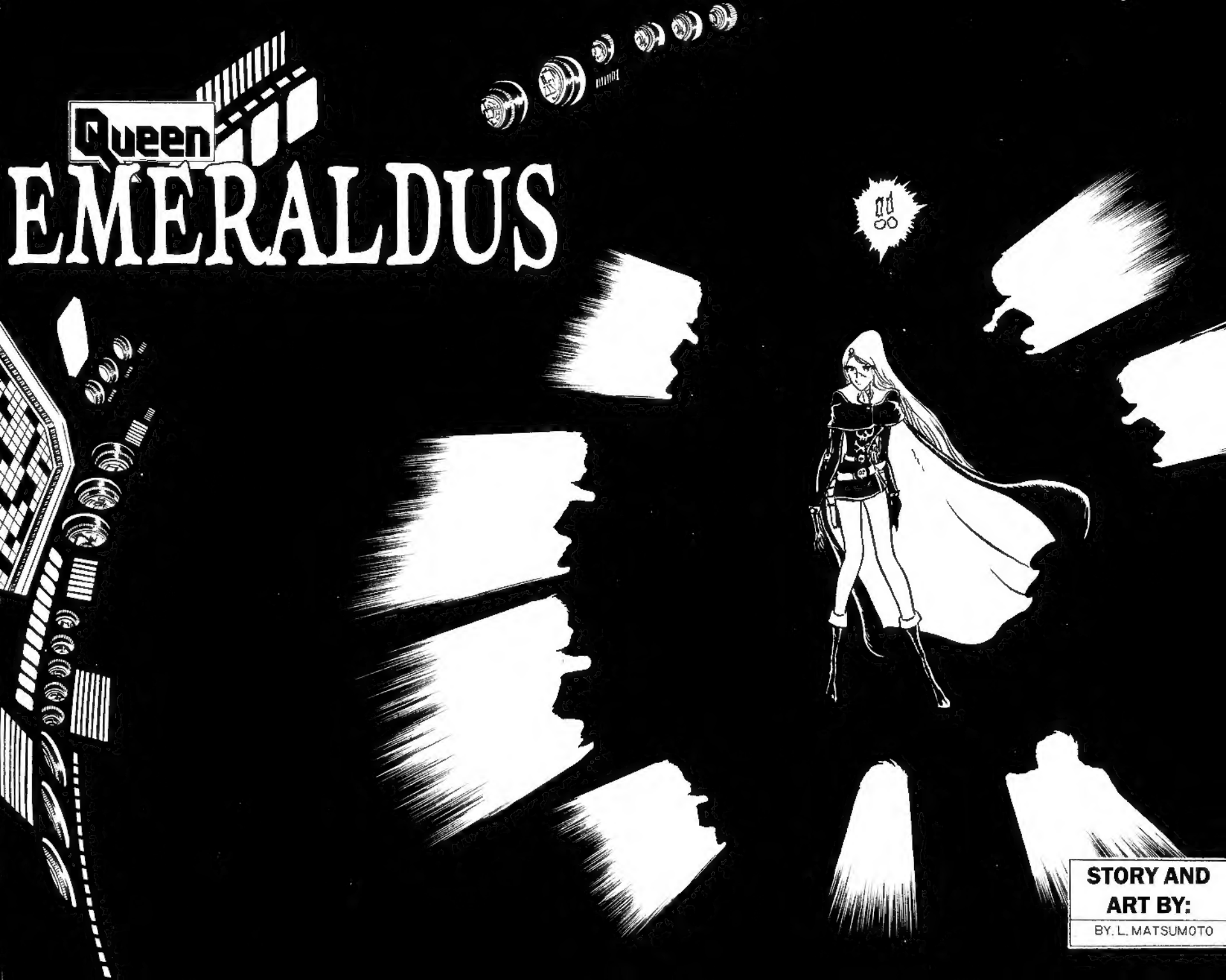

KILL HER!! KILL HER CAREFULLY AND AVOID ANY MAJOR DAMAGE!!
YOU ARE WITHIN MY BELLY! EMERALDUS STANDS NO CHANCE!!


Queen
EMERALDUS
STORY AND
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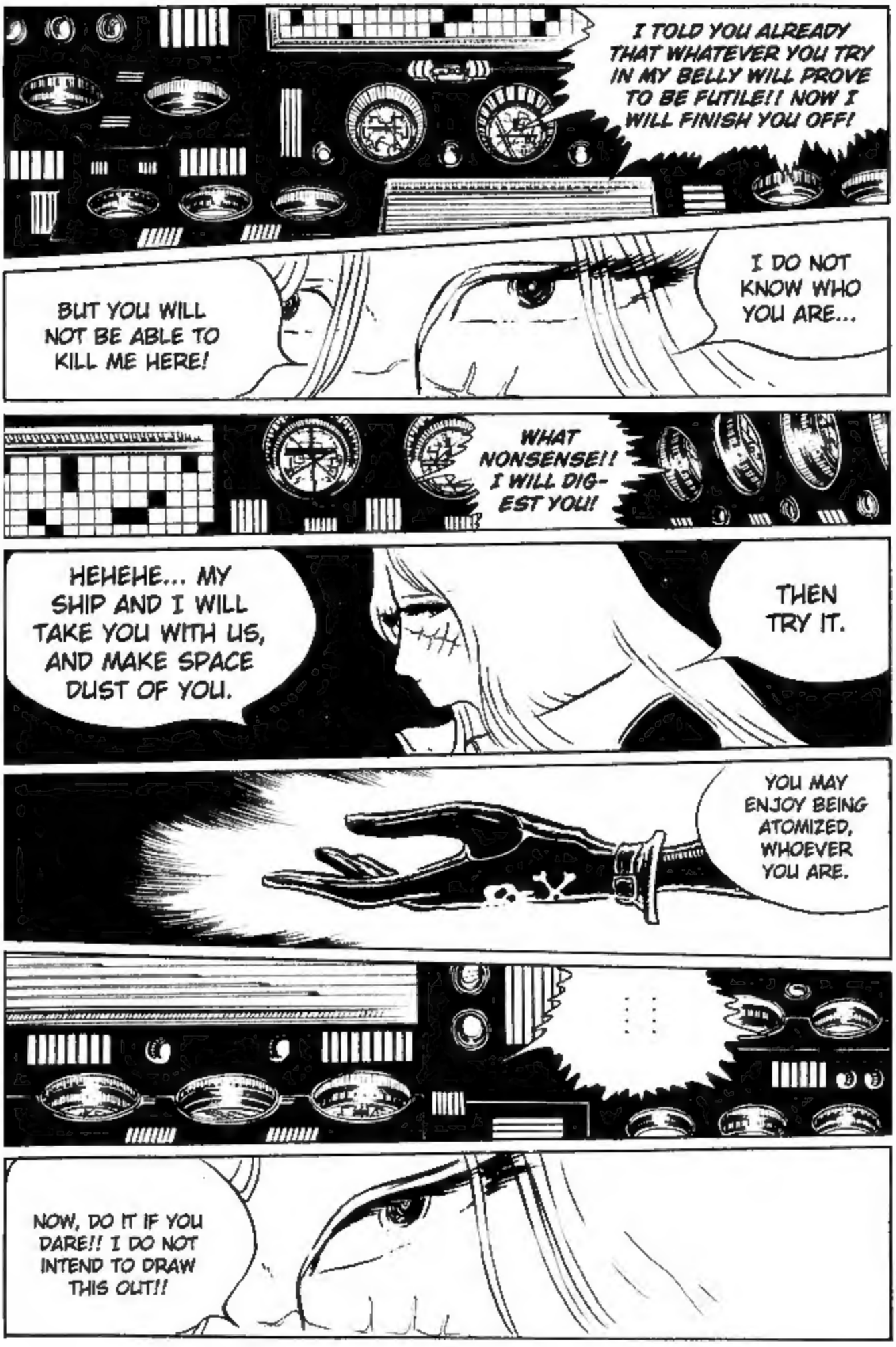
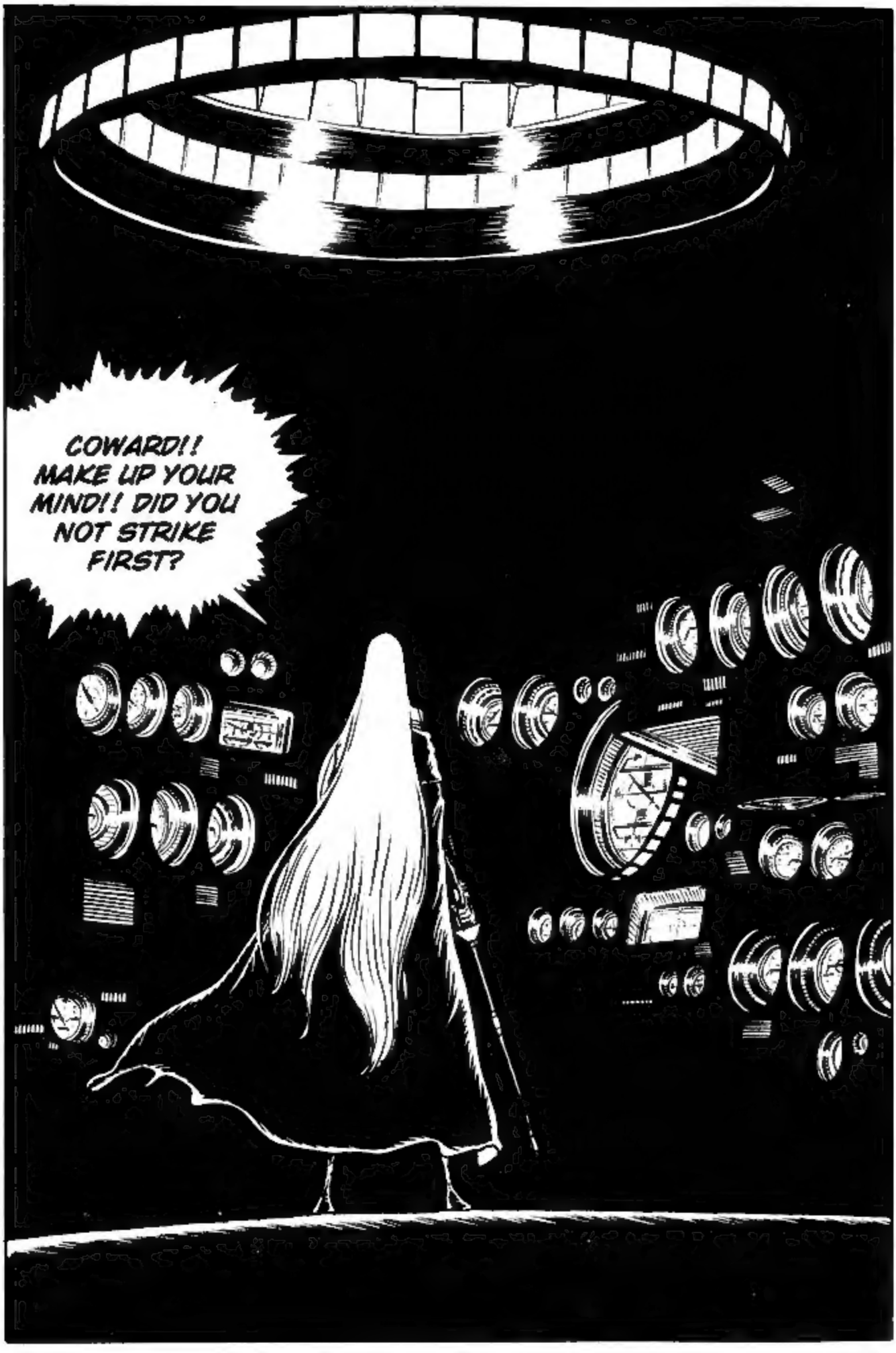
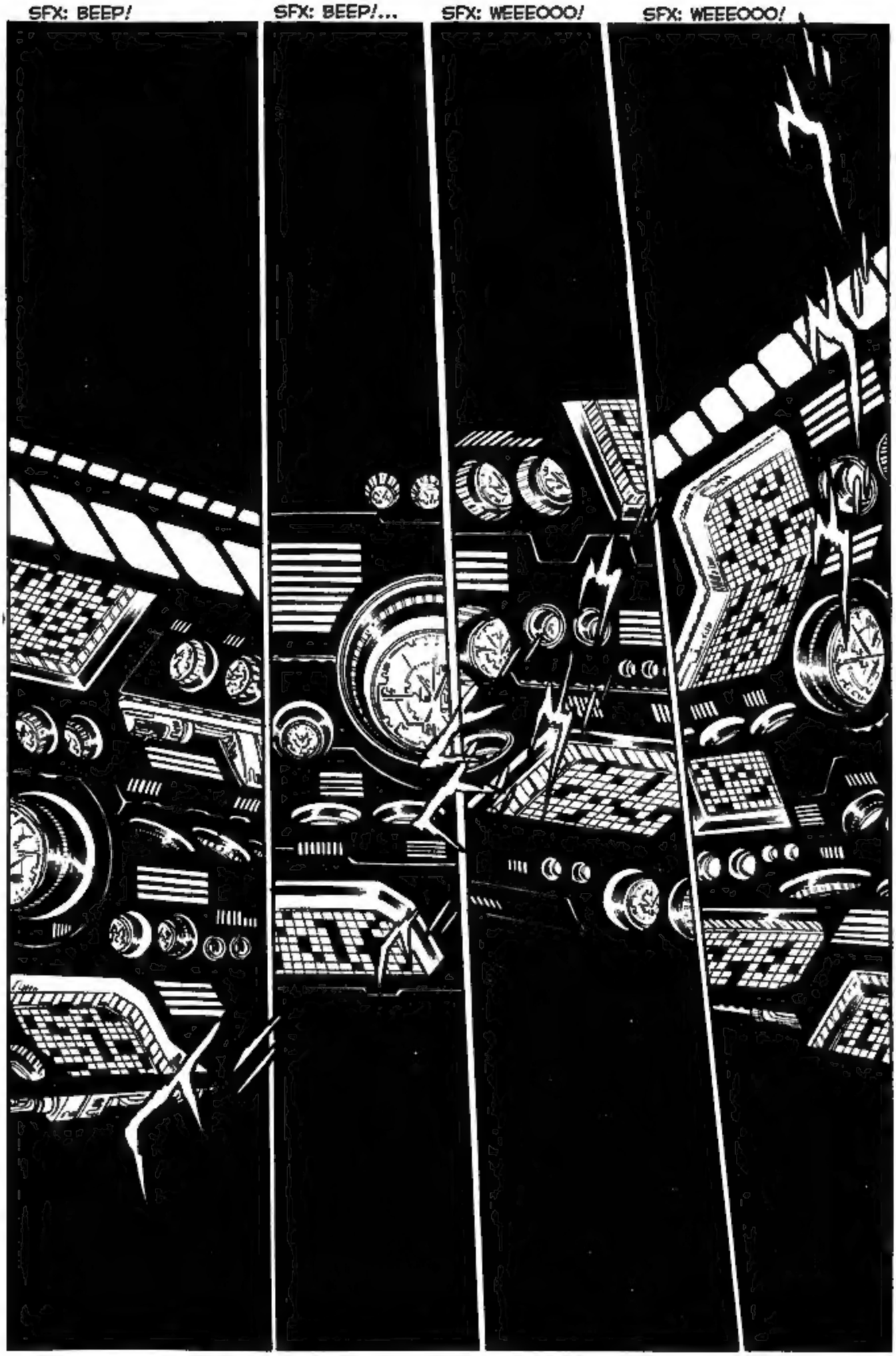
BY. L. MATSUMOTO

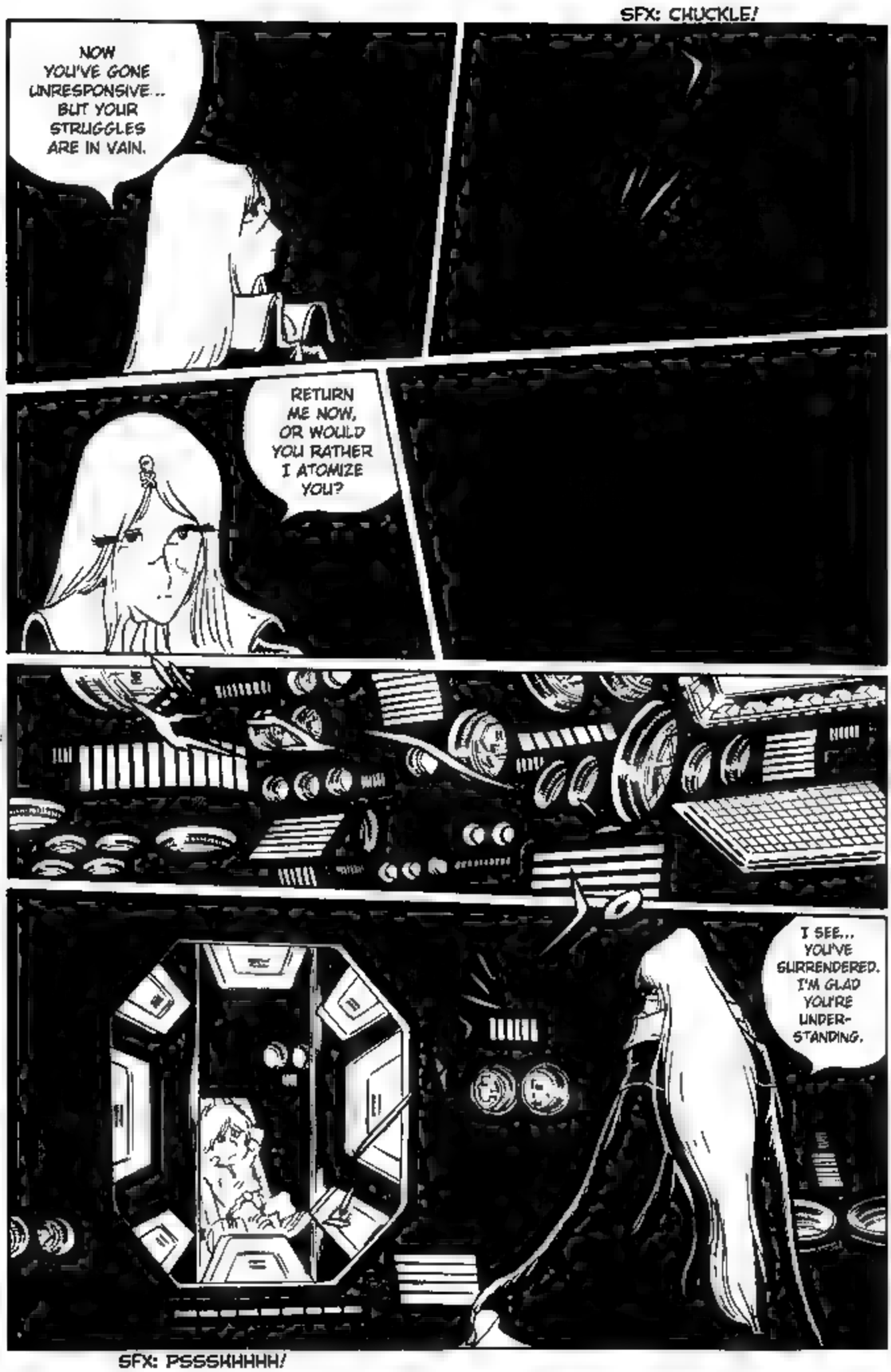
DOWOP
DOOO

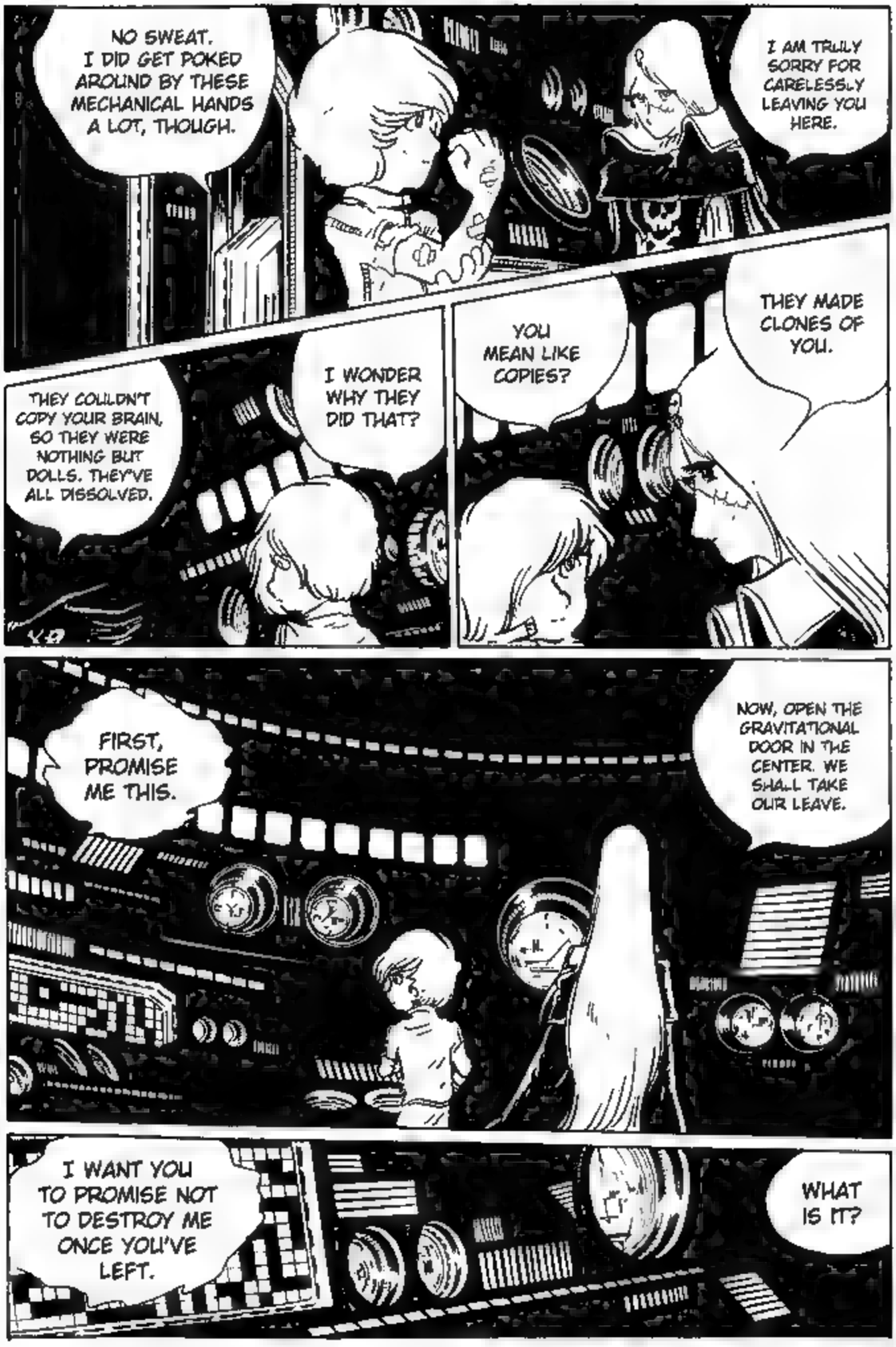
IS THAT YOUR ANSWER, EMERALDUS? MAY I TAKE THAT AS A CHALLENGE!?


I TOLD YOU ALREADY THAT WHATEVER YOU TRY IN MY BELLY WILL PROVE TO BE FUTILE!! NOW I WILL FINISH YOU OFF!
I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KILL ME HERE!
WHAT NONSENSE!! I WILL DIG-EST YOU!
THEN TRY IT.
HEHEHE... MY SHIP AND I WILL TAKE YOU WITH US, AND MAKE SPACE DUST OF YOU.
YOU MAY ENJOY BEING ATOMIZED, WHOEVER YOU ARE.
NOW, DO IT IF YOU DARE!! I DO NOT INTEND TO DRAW THIS OUT!!


COWARD!! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!! DID YOU NOT STRIKE FIRST?

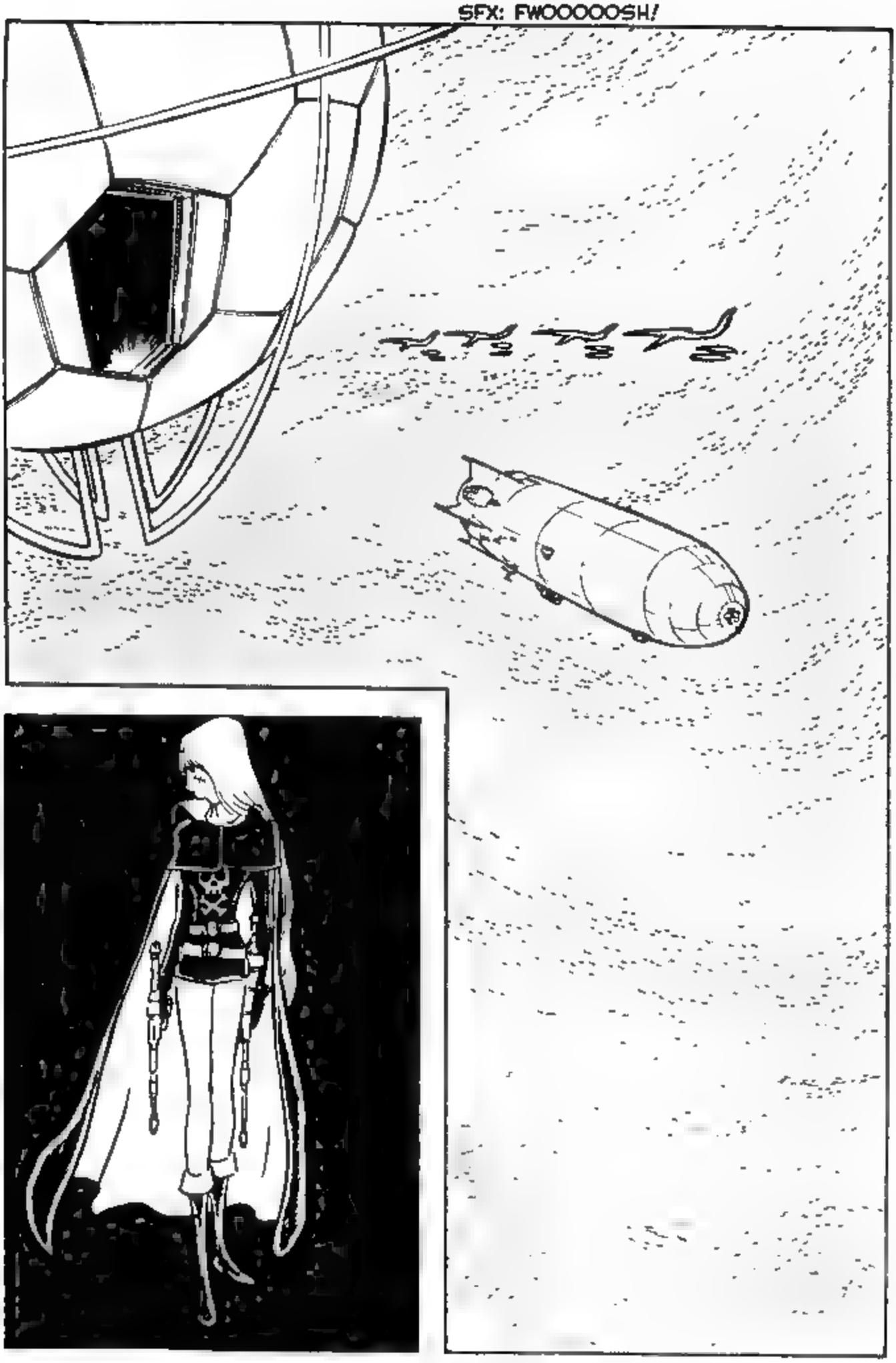

SFX: BEEP!
SFX: BEEP!...
SFX: WEEEOOO!
SFX: WEEEOOO!

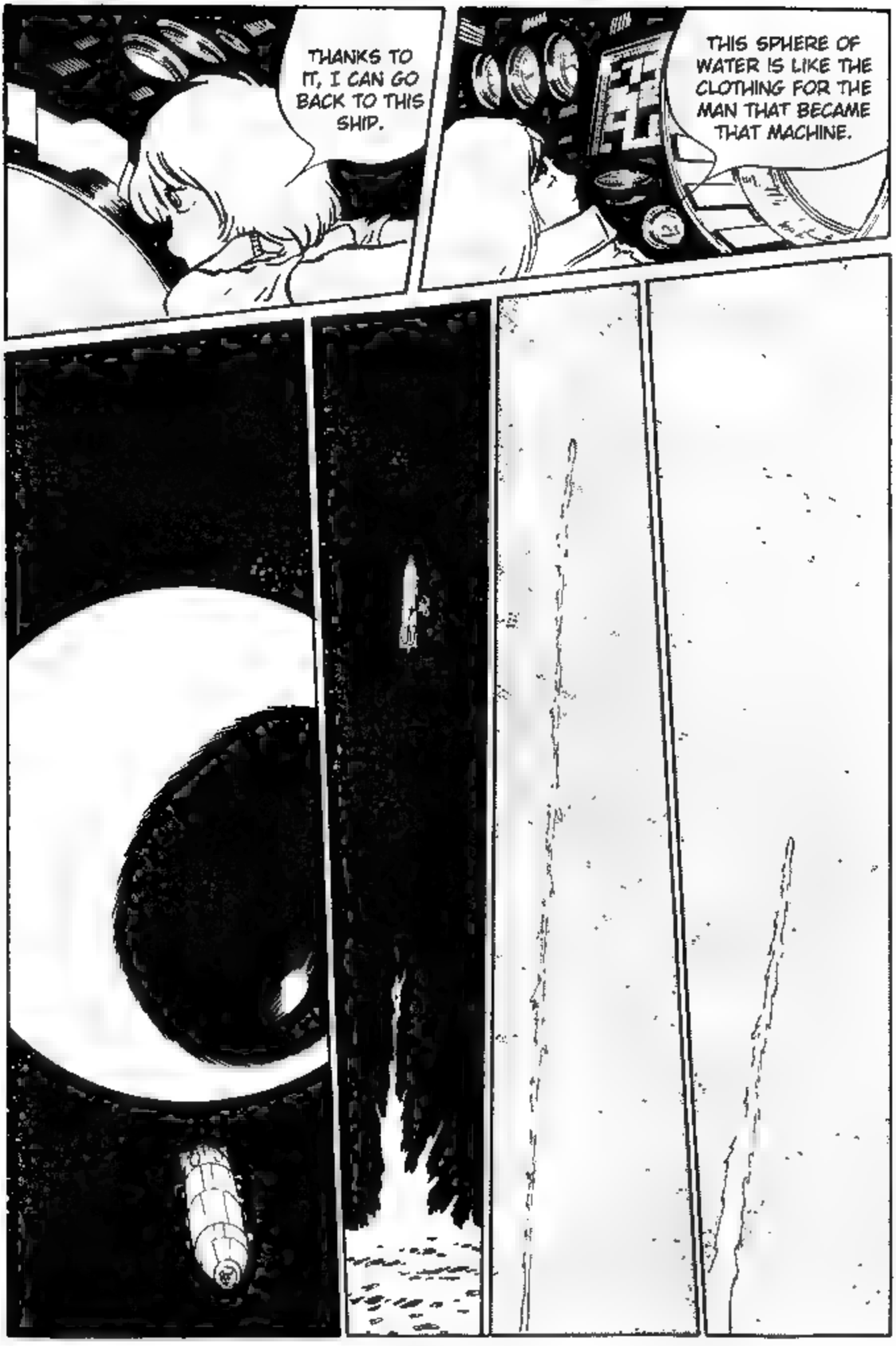

SFX: CHUCKLE!
NOW YOU'VE GONE UNRESPONSIVE... BUT YOUR STRUGGLES ARE IN VAIN.
RETURN ME NOW, OR WOULD YOU RATHER I ATOMIZE YOU?
SFX: SWOOOSH!
I SEE... YOU'VE SURRENDERED. I'M GLAD YOU'RE UNDER-STANDING.
SFX: PSSSKHHHH!


NO SWEAT. I DID GET POKED AROUND BY THESE MECHANICAL HANDS A LOT, THOUGH.
I AM TRULY SORRY FOR CARELESSLY LEAVING YOU HERE.
THEY COULDN'T COPY YOUR BRAIN, SO THEY WERE NOTHING BUT DOLLS. THEY'VE ALL DISSOLVED.
I WONDER WHY THEY DID THAT?
YOU MEAN LIKE COPIES?
THEY MADE CLONES OF YOU.
FIRST, PROMISE ME THIS.
NOW, OPEN THE GRAVITATIONAL DOOR IN THE CENTER. WE SHALL TAKE OUR LEAVE.
I WANT YOU TO PROMISE NOT TO DESTROY ME ONCE YOU'VE LEFT.
WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE NO REASON TO DESTROY YOU.
IT MATTERS NOT TO ME WHAT YOU DO, SO LONG AS YOU DO NOT CAUSE TROUBLE.
SFX: PSSS-HHHHH!
VERY WELL. I WILL OPEN THE GRAVITATIONAL DOOR. NOW LEAVE AT ONCE.
I WONDER WHAT THIS STRANGE PLANET WAS DOING.
HE DIDN'T SEEM VERY HONEST.

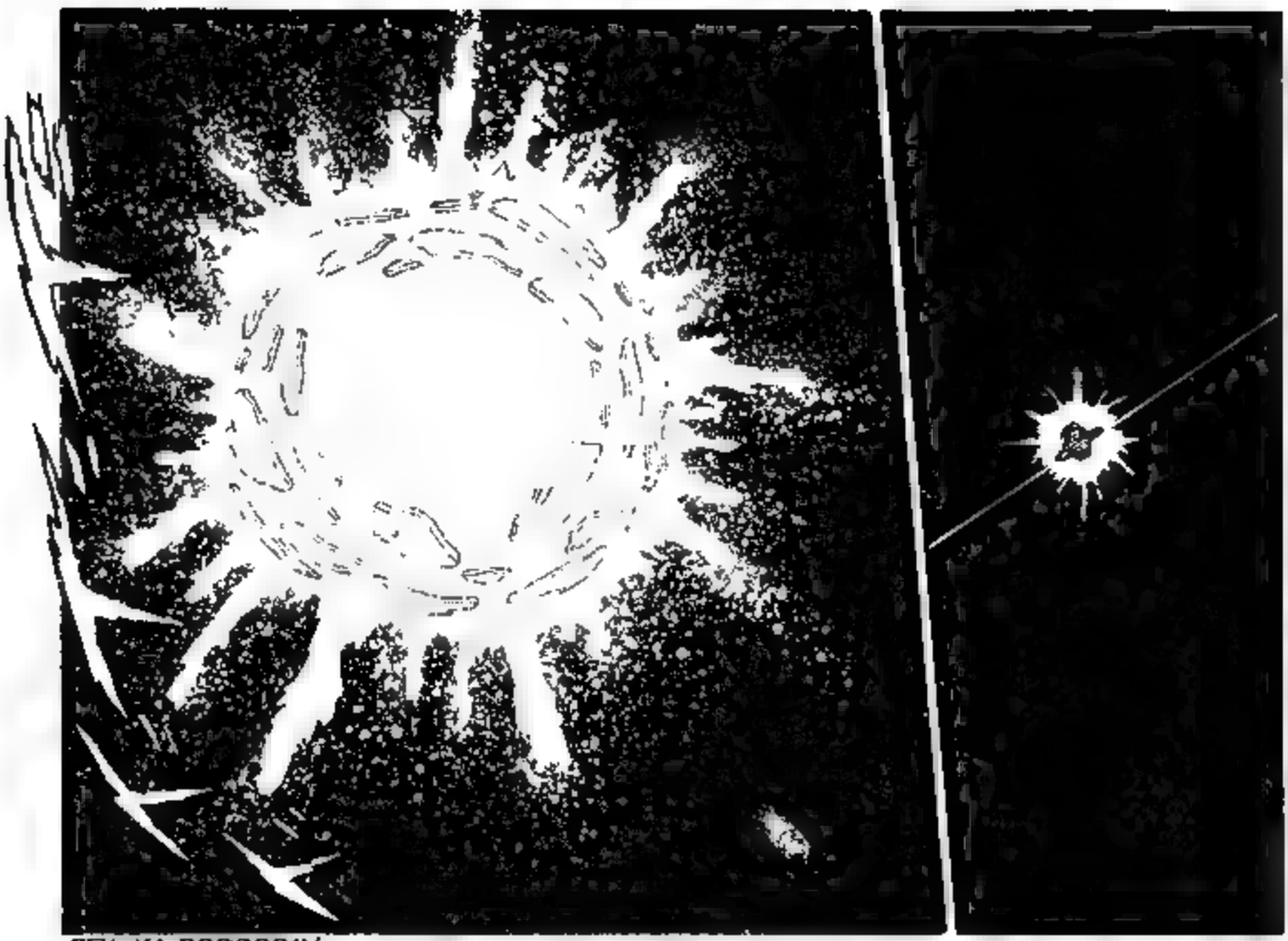
SFX: FWOOOOOSH!



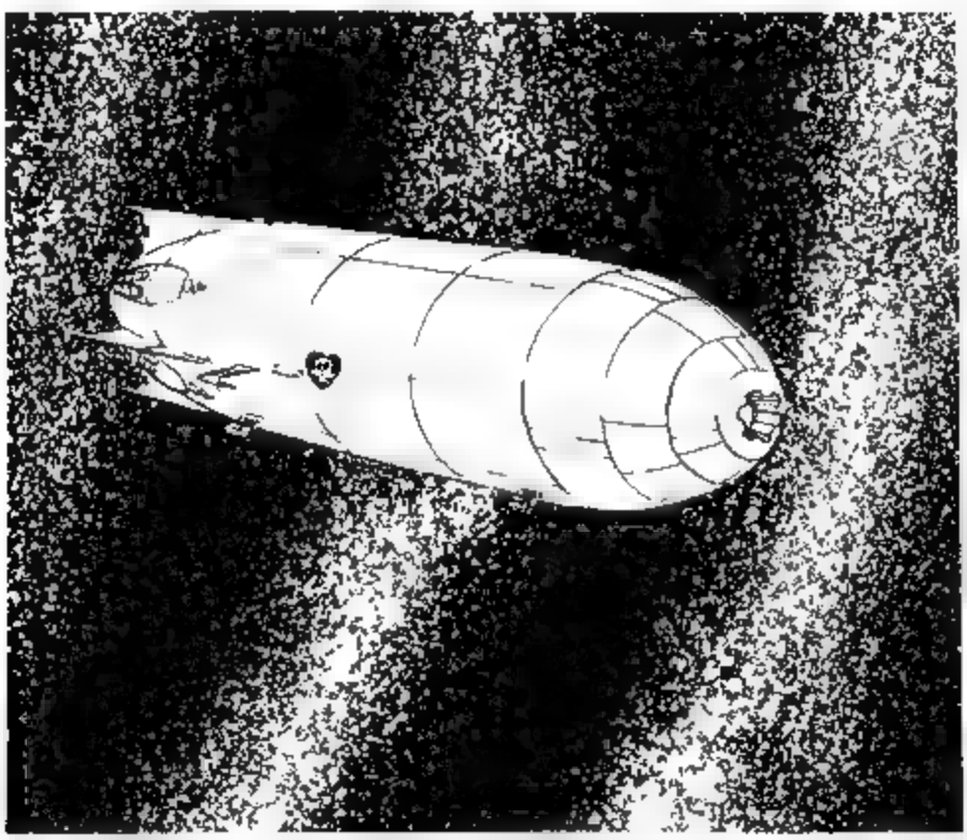

THANKS TO IT, I CAN GO BACK TO THIS SHIP.
THIS SPHERE OF WATER IS LIKE THE CLOTHING FOR THE MAN THAT BECAME THAT MACHINE.

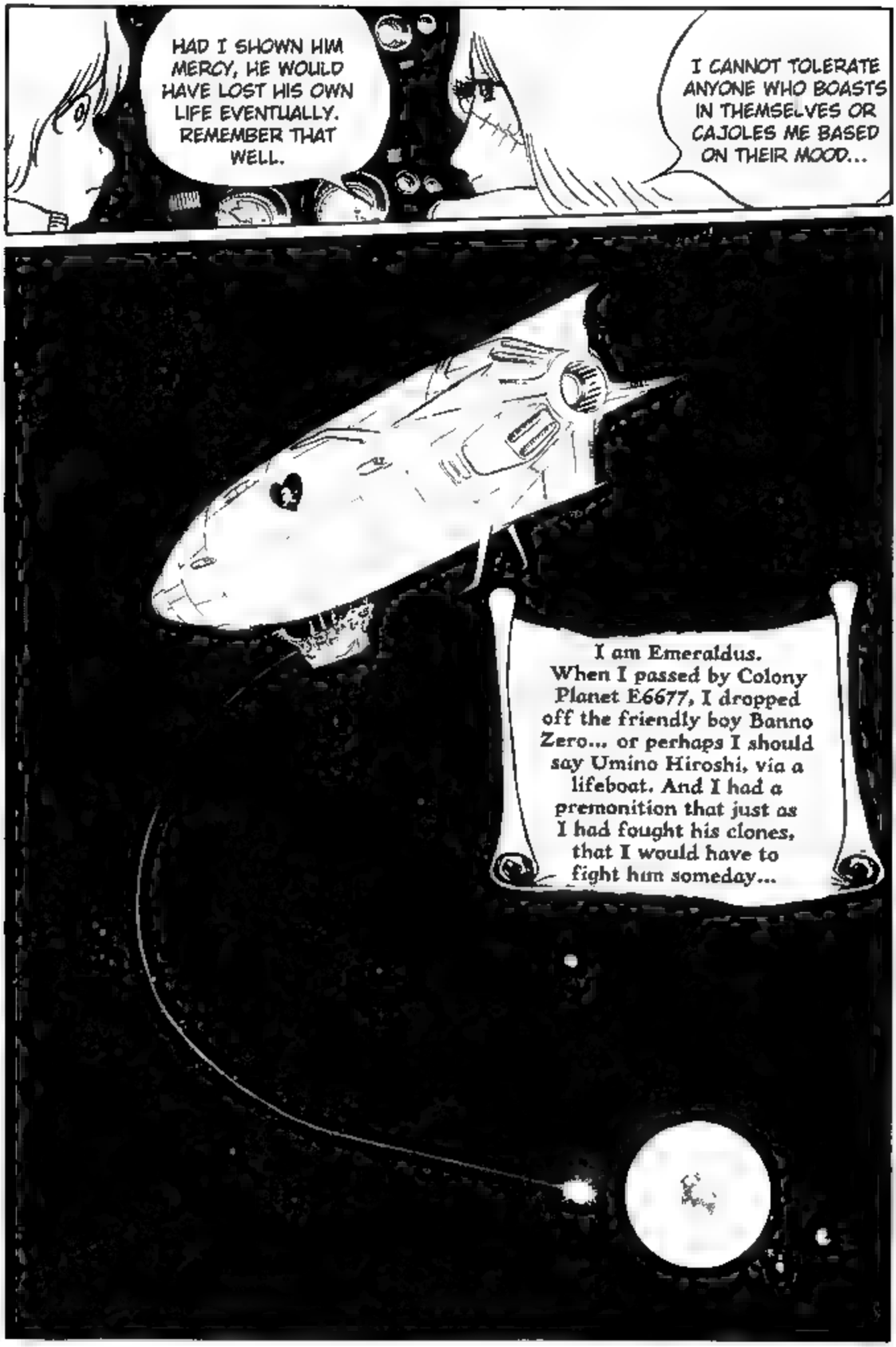
RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

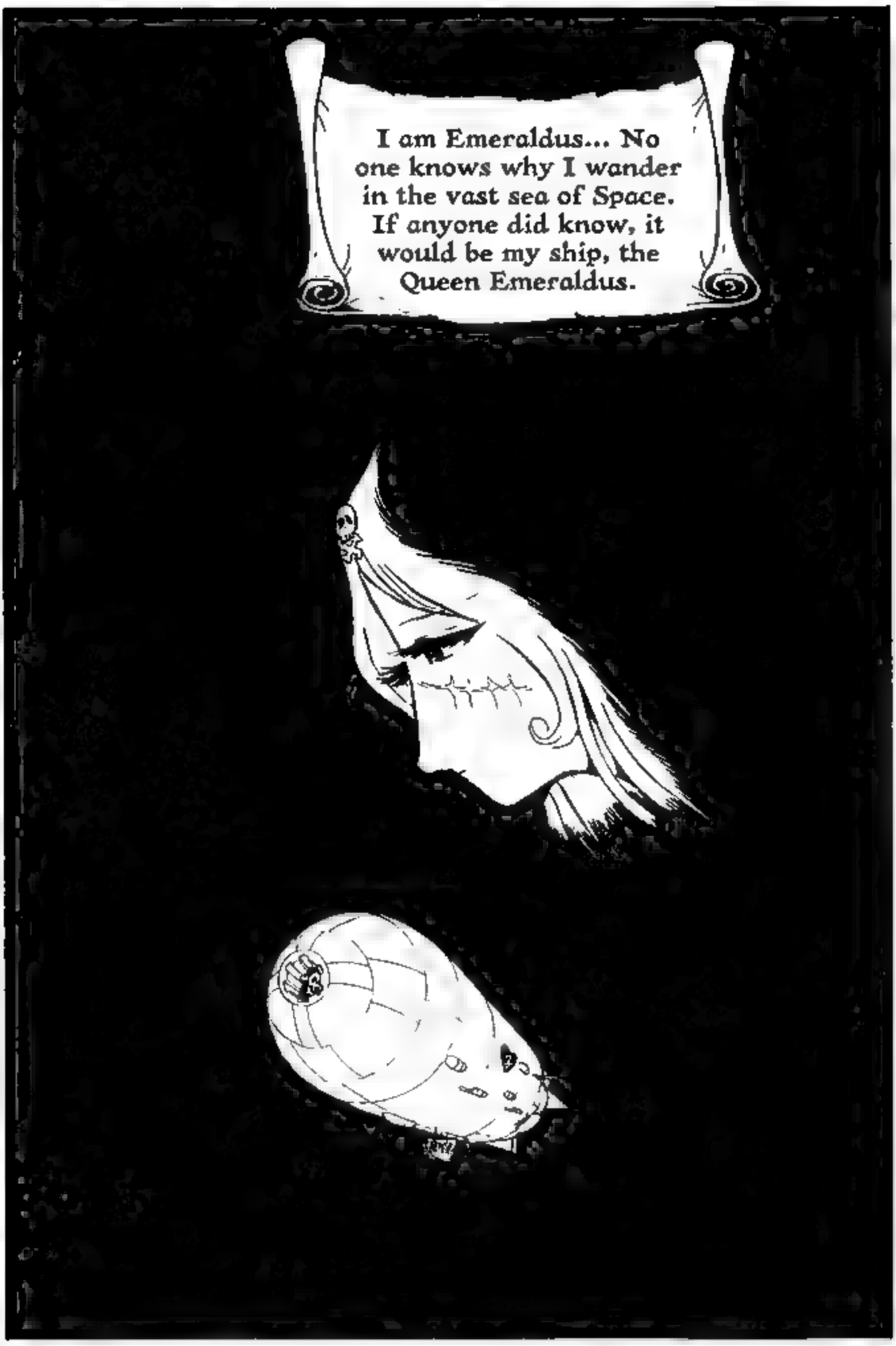
SFX: ROOOAAARRR!
HE'S TRYING TO CRUSH ME BY RELEASING THE WATER FROM HIS GRAVITY! WHAT A FOOL!
SFX: FWOO-OOSH!
NOW HE'S STRUGGLING TO ESCAPE.
SFX: FZZZT!
YOUR LUCK RAN OUT THE MINUTE YOU ANGERED ME... NOW PREPARE TO DIE!

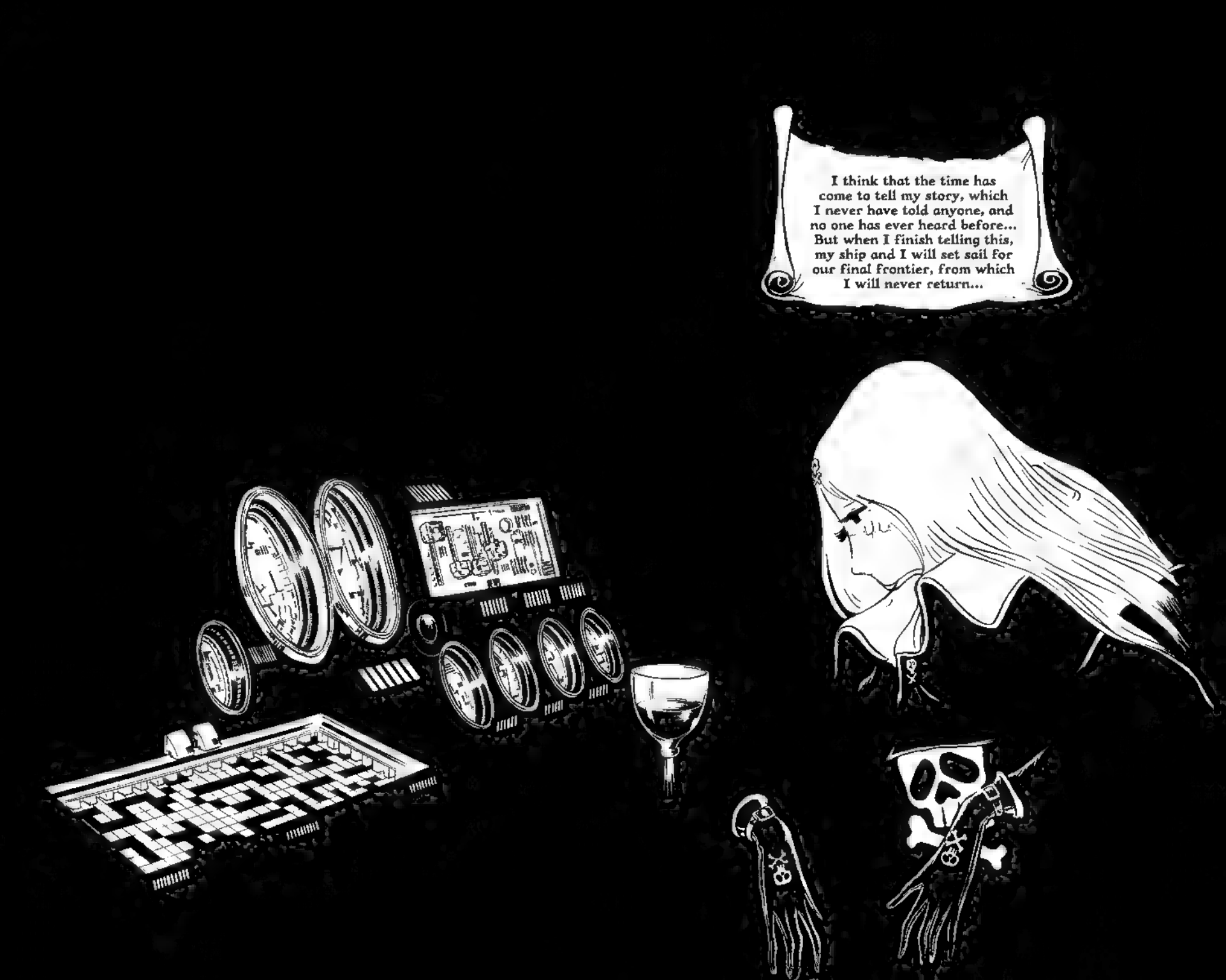


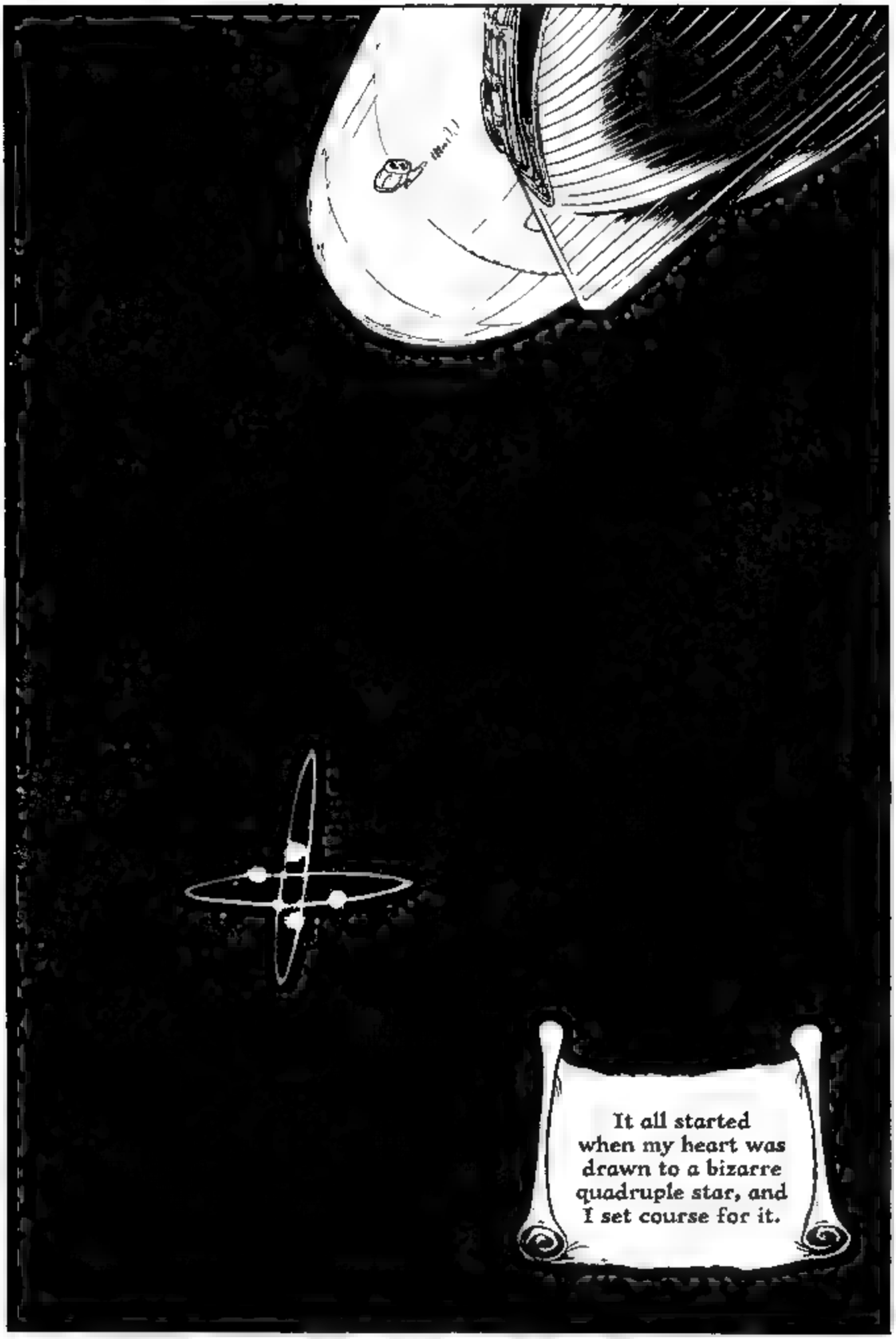
SFX: KA-BOOOOOM!

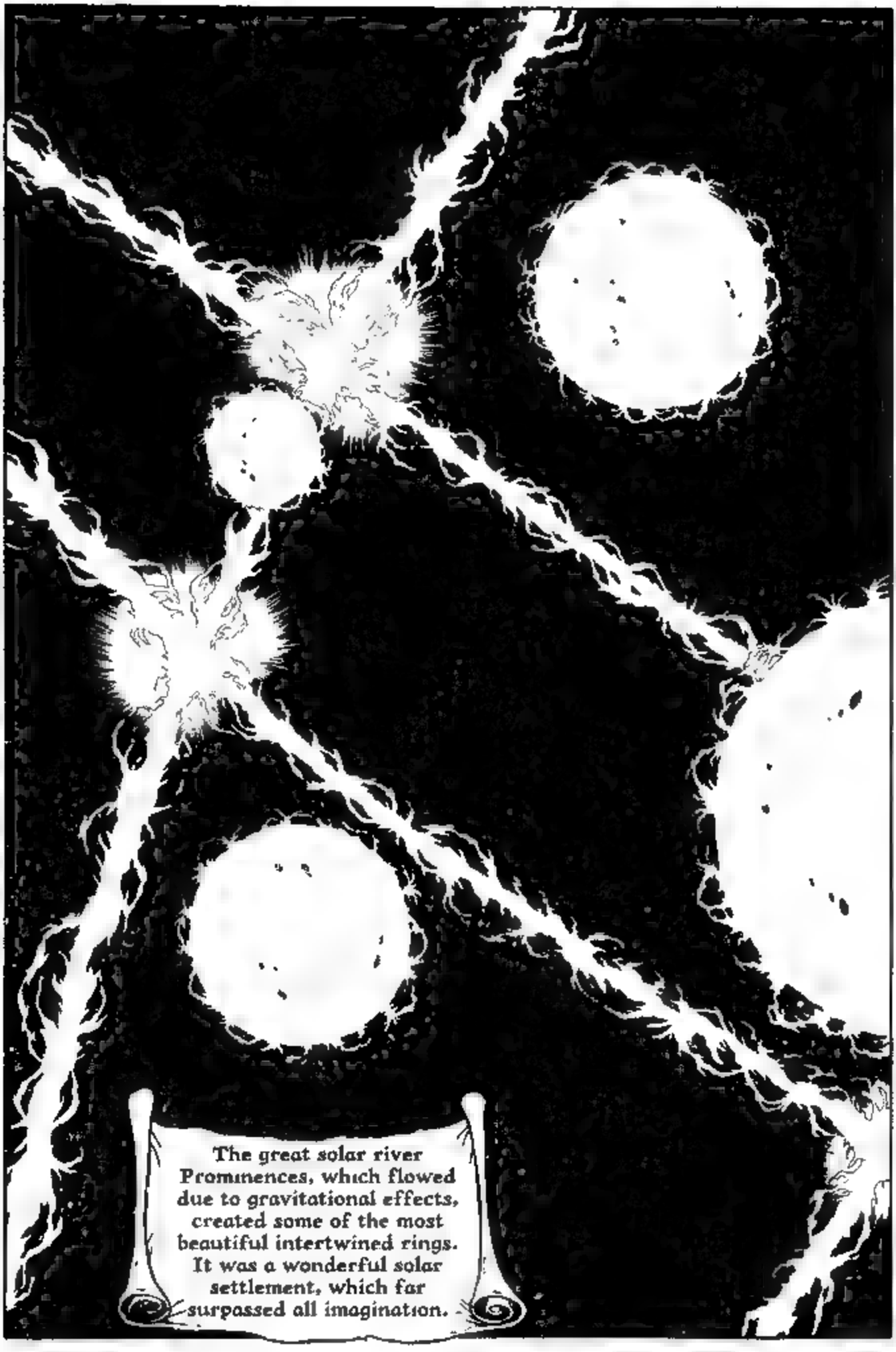


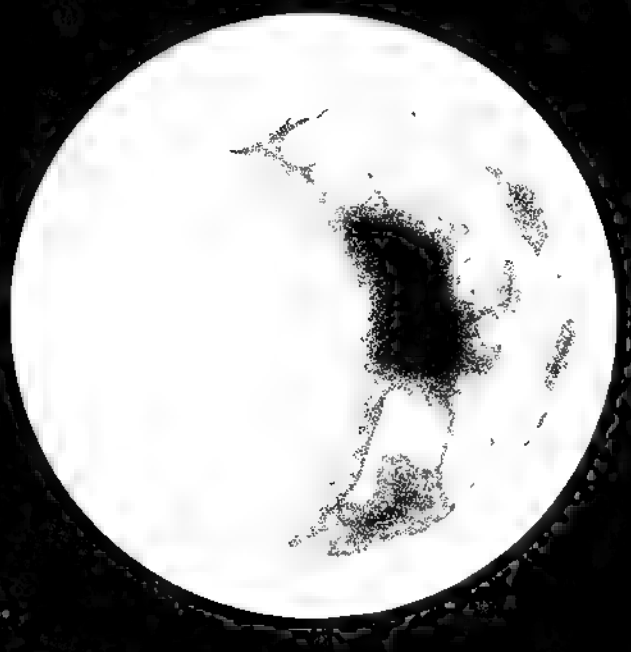

HAD I SHOWN HIM MERCY, HE WOULD HAVE LOST HIS OWN LIFE EVENTUALLY. REMEMBER THAT WELL.
I CANNOT TOLERATE ANYONE WHO BOASTS IN THEMSELVES OR CAJOLES ME BASED ON THEIR MOOD...
I am Emeraldus. When I passed by Colony Planet E6677, I dropped off the friendly boy Banno Zero... or perhaps I should say Umino Hiroshi, via a lifeboat. And I had a premonition that just as I had fought his clones, that I would have to fight him someday...

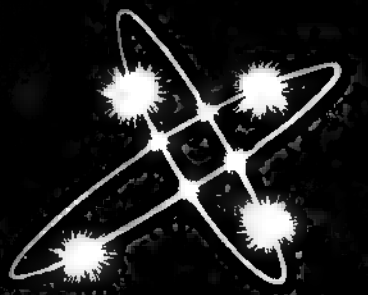

I am Emeraldus... No one knows why I wander in the vast sea of Space. If anyone did know, it would be my ship, the Queen Emeraldus.

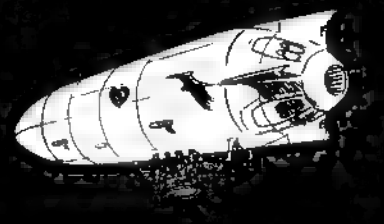

I think that the time has come to tell my story, which I never have told anyone, and no one has ever heard before... But when I finish telling this, my ship and I will set sail for our final frontier, from which I will never return...


It all started when my heart was drawn to a bizarre quadruple star, and I set course for it.

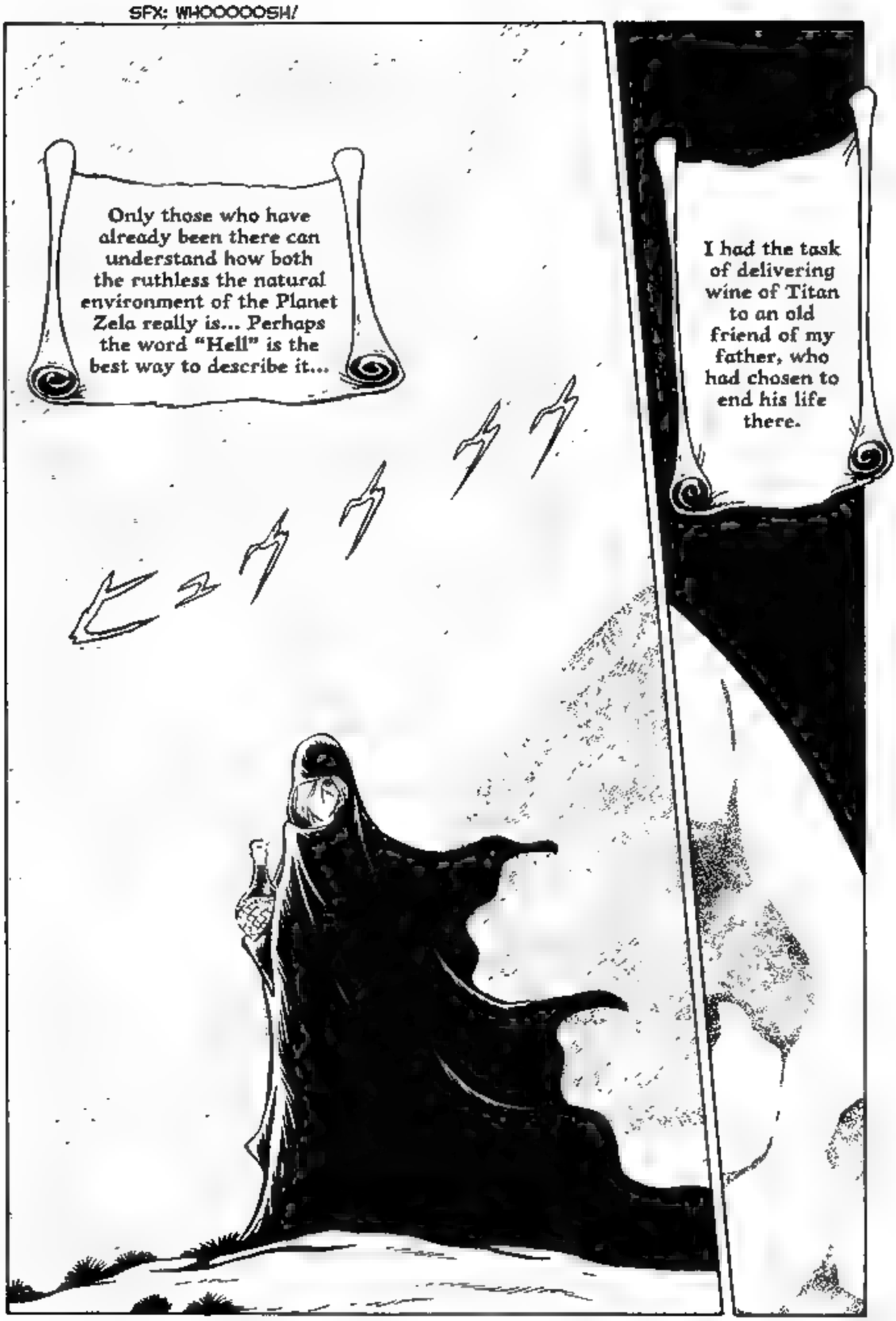

The great solar river Prominences, which flowed due to gravitational effects, created some of the most beautiful intertwined rings. It was a wonderful solar settlement, which far surpassed all imagination.

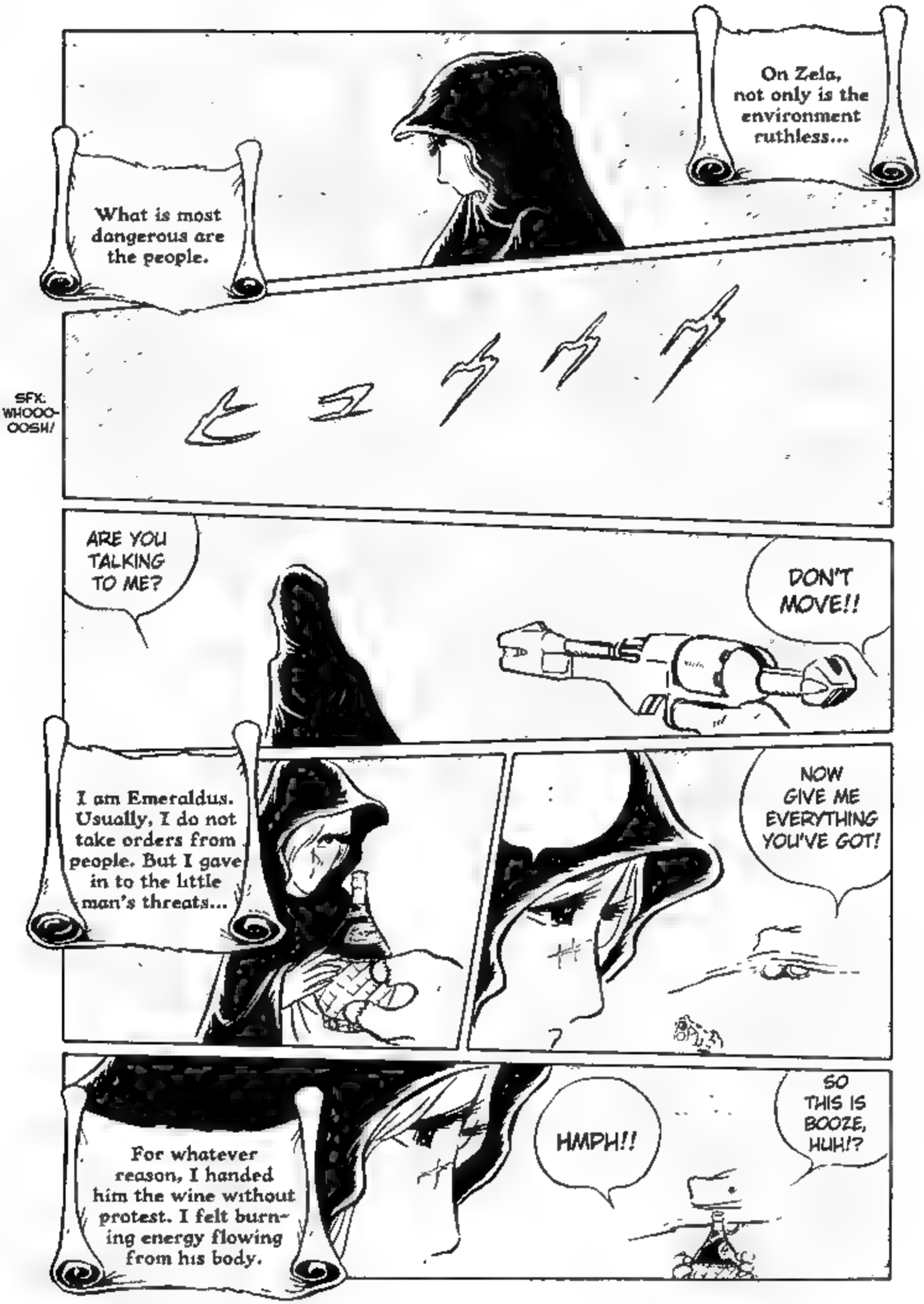






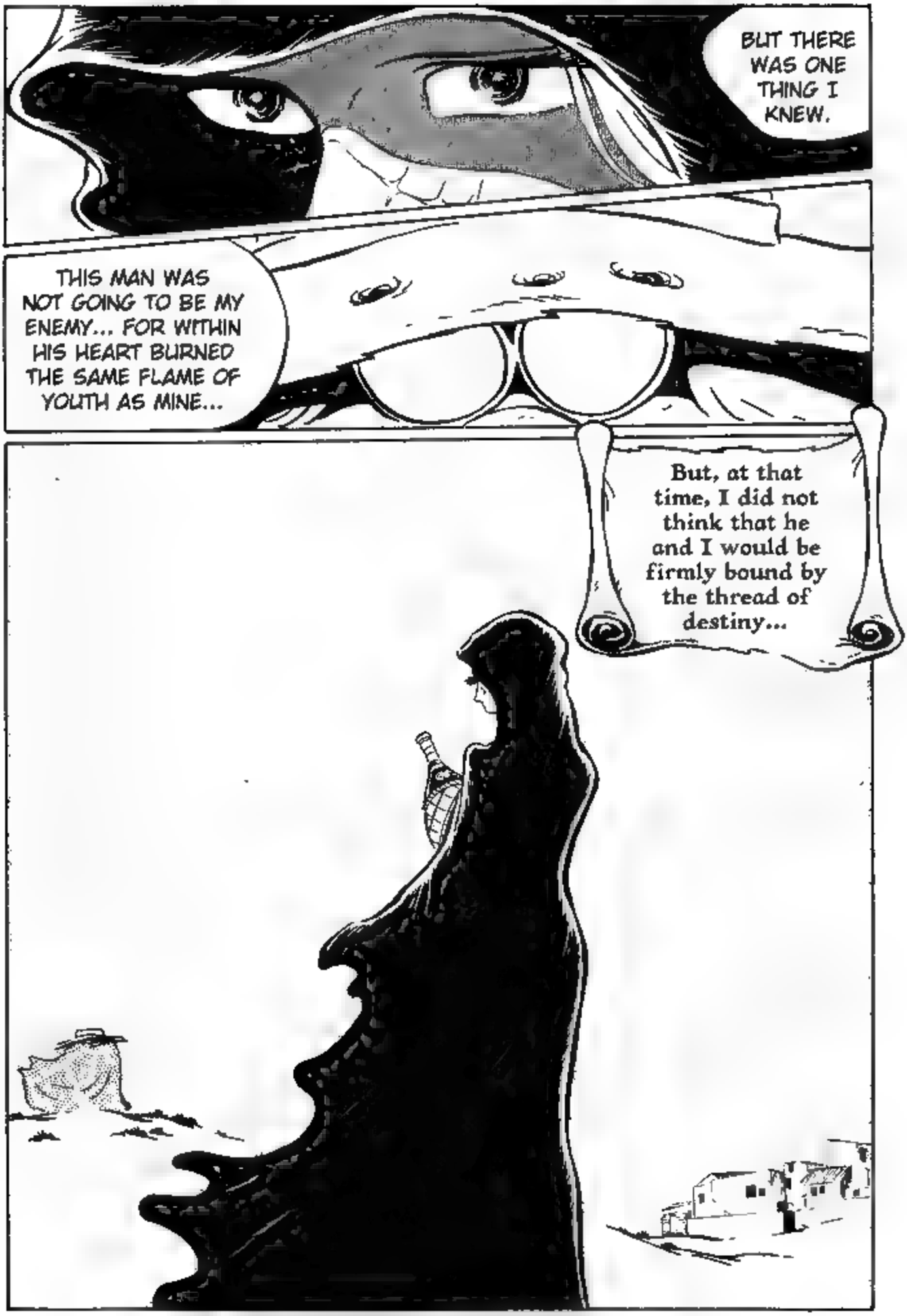
Zela was the seventh planet in this quadruple star's system on the outskirts of the Andromeda... It was a harsh colony planet where sandstorms covered the brown earth...


SFX: WHOOOOOSH!
Only those who have already been there can understand how both the ruthless the natural environment of the Planet Zela really is... Perhaps the word "Hell" is the best way to describe it...
I had the task of delivering wine of Titan to an old friend of my father, who had chosen to end his life there.


On Zela, not only is the environment ruthless...
What is most dangerous are the people.
SFX: WHOOO-OOSH!
ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
DON'T MOVE!!
I am Emeraldus. Usually, I do not take orders from people. But I gave in to the little man's threats...
NOW GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!
For whatever reason, I handed him the wine without protest. I felt burning energy flowing from his body.
HMPH!!
SO THIS IS BOOZE, HUH!?

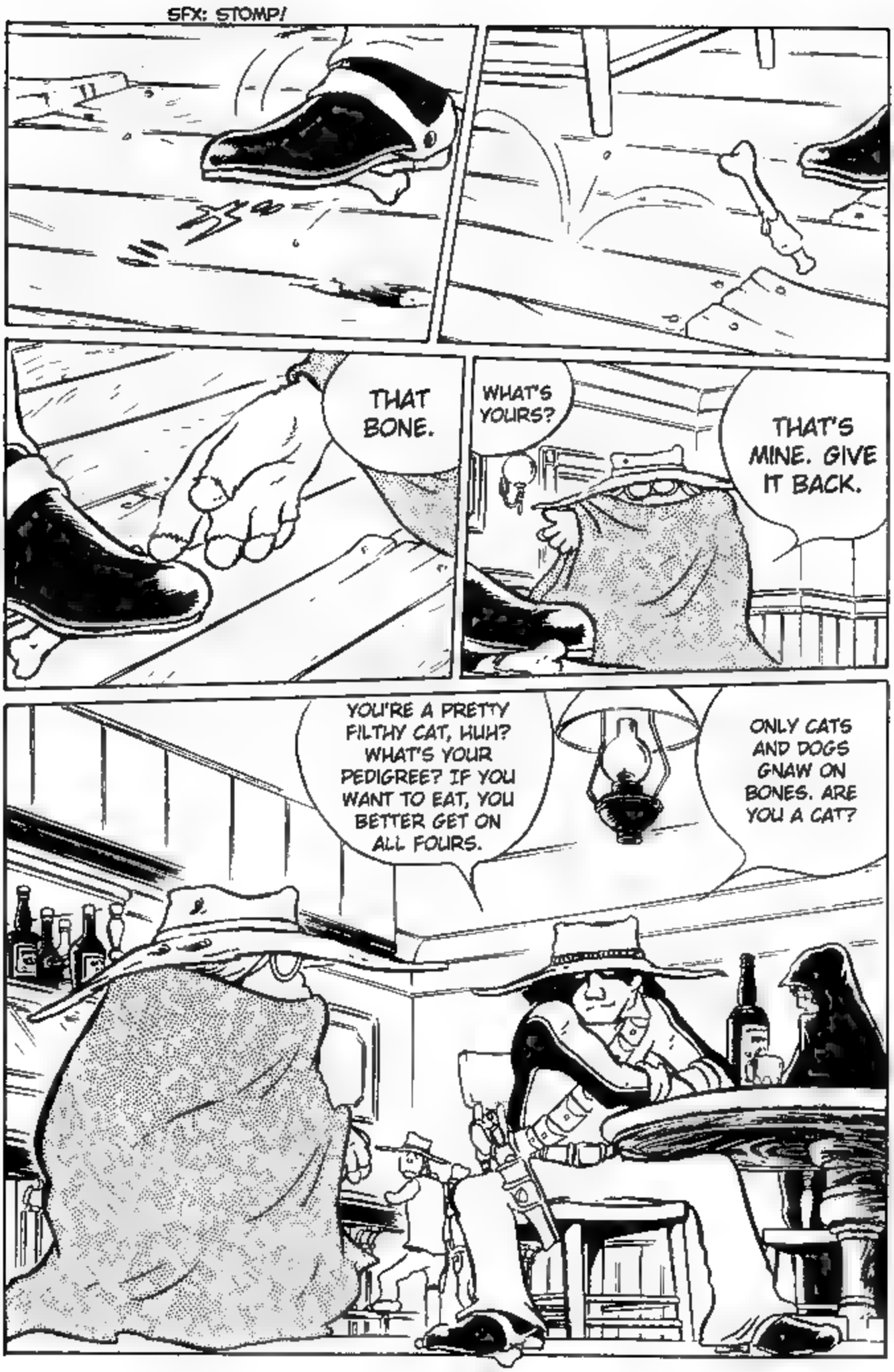
HUH ...?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TAKE IT BACK.
I SEE.
FOOD.
NO.
ARE YOU FROM HERE?
I DON'T TAKE CHARITY. IF I ABSOLUTELY NEED SOMETHING, I STEAL IT.
THERE IS A RESTAURANT NEARBY. CAN I OFFER YOU SOMETHING?
HE WAS THE MAN WHO HELPED THE YOUNG ZEDA, WHOSE NAME IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THIS PLANET, CROSS THE FLAMING RIVER OF PROMINENCE!!
I REMEMBER NOW!! I'VE MET THIS MAN BEFORE!! IT WAS ON THE COLONY PLANET IN THE DOUBLE SOLAR SYSTEM OF VESUVERUS...
DON'T BE SILLY. THIS IS HEAVEN COMPARED TO SOME OTHER PLANETS I WANDERED.
THIS IS A HARSH PLACE. IT'S HARD BEING BROKE ON HERE.

Surrounding that man
was indomitable intensity
possessed only by those who
have courted death many times.
I knew full well that underesti-
mating him from his appearance
would surely cause me to face
great pain...

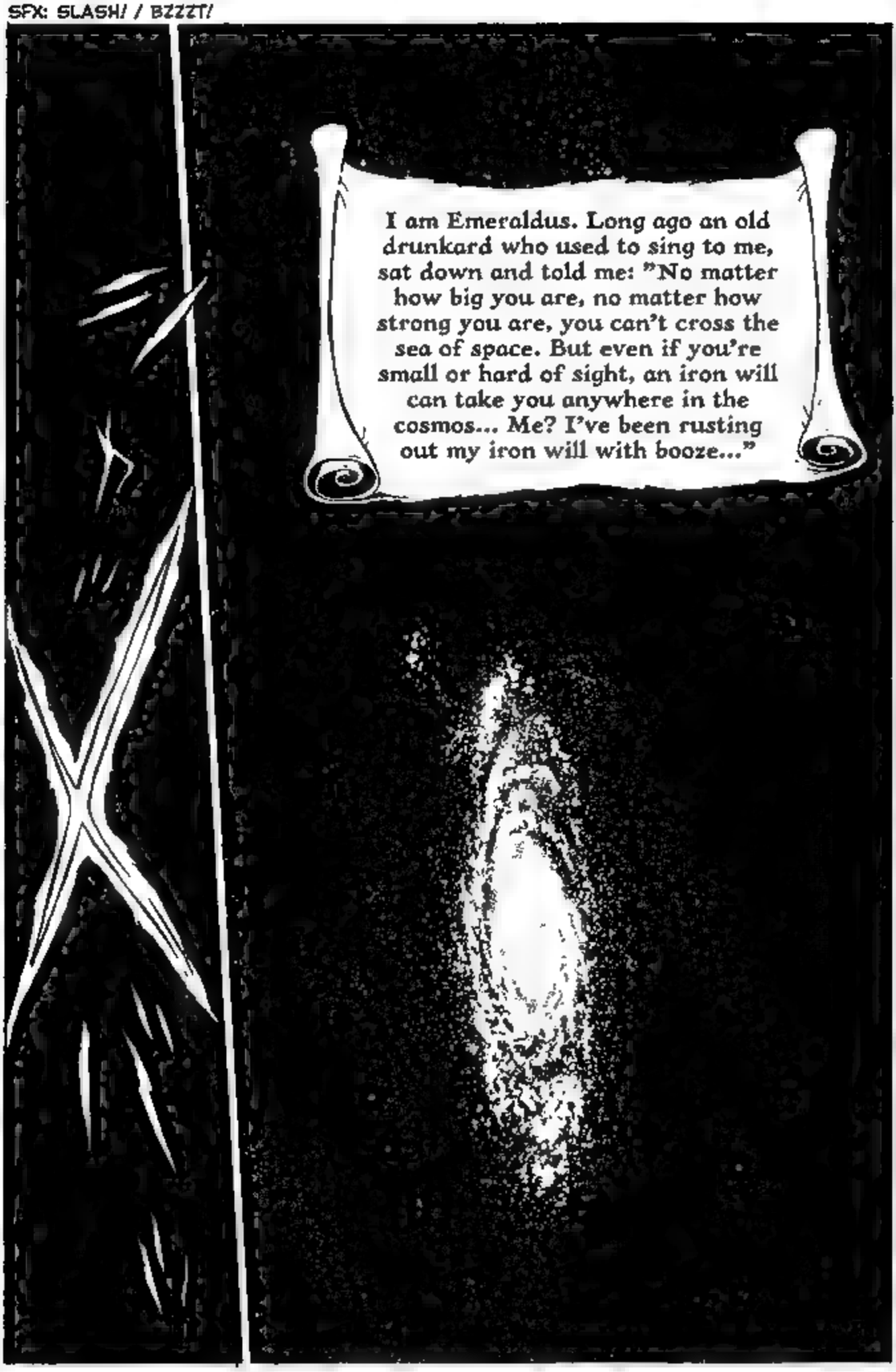

BUT THERE WAS ONE THING I KNEW.
THIS MAN WAS NOT GOING TO BE MY ENEMY... FOR WITHIN HIS HEART BURNED THE SAME FLAME OF YOUTH AS MINE...
But, at that time, I did not think that he and I would be firmly bound by the thread of destiny...

My father's friend's house was on the outskirts of the poor colony's residential district.
But where there should have been a house, there was a stone heap, eroding and returning to dust...
As I gazed upon this stone heap, I realized that time flowed on relentlessly, taking men with it. No one could stop this flow...
ONE DAY I WILL FADE AWAY, JUST LIKE THIS STONE HEAP...
SFX: GLUB! GLUB! GLUB! GLUB!

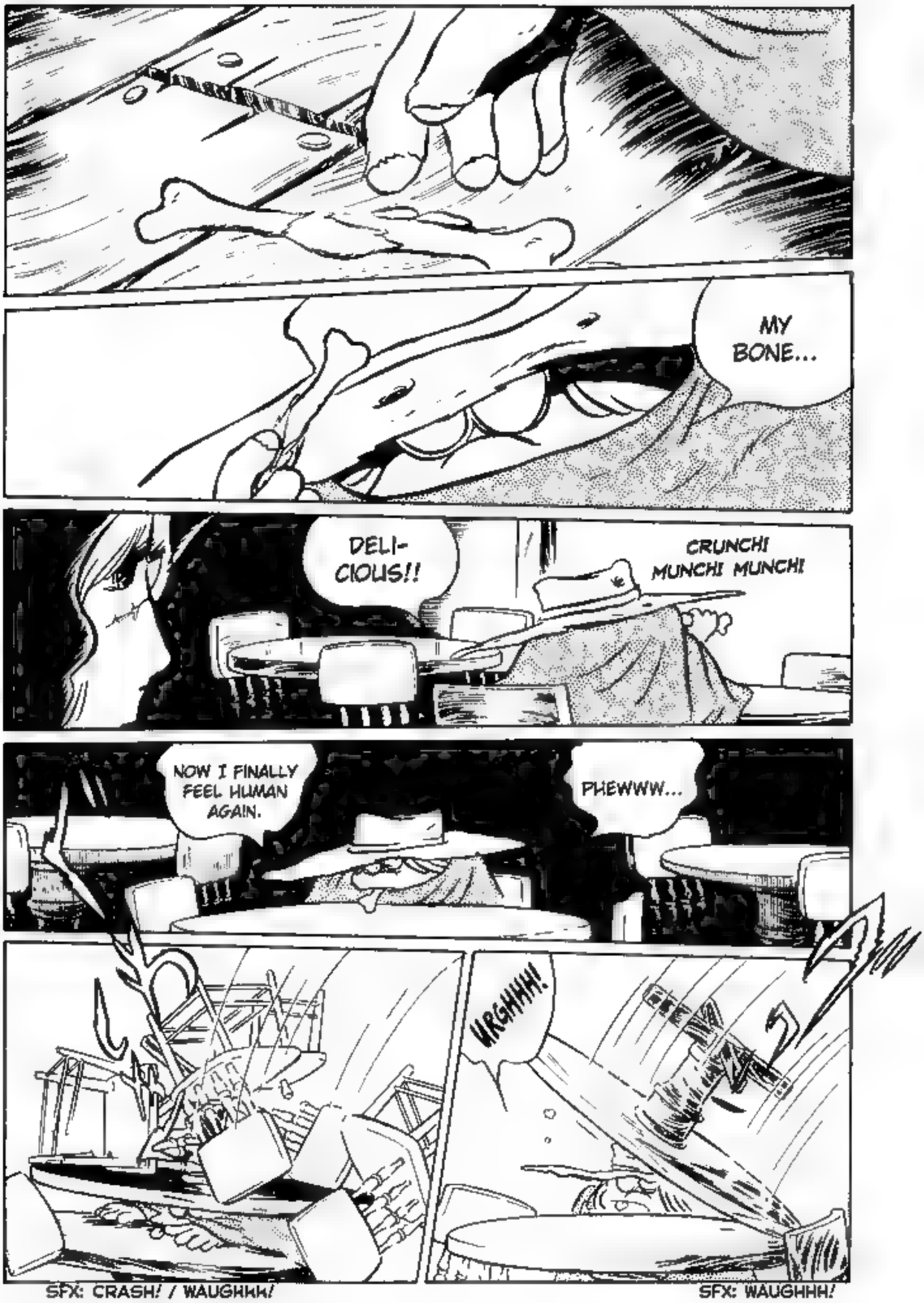
Having given my wine to the ground, I entered a tavern in the residential district to quench my own thirst....
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT A DRINK? YOU JUST WANT FOOD? HOW MUCH YOU GOT?
!!
ONLY THING I CAN GIVE YOU FOR THIS IS A CHICKEN BONE.
HMPH!!
SFX: CHING!
HERE.
THAT'S ENOUGH. HAND IT OVER.


SFX: STOMP!
THAT BONE.
WHAT'S YOURS?
THAT'S MINE. GIVE IT BACK.
YOU'RE A PRETTY FILTHY CAT, HUH? WHAT'S YOUR PEDIGREE? IF YOU WANT TO EAT, YOU BETTER GET ON ALL FOURS.
ONLY CATS AND DOGS GNAW ON BONES. ARE YOU A CAT?

Everyone was anticipating that this man would be shot to death. But I knew that man was the very image of composure, and all that mattered to him was the bone that would be smeared with mud, if he didn't take it quickly...
MAY I TAKE IT FROM YOU? REALLY?
SURE YOU CAN, UNLESS YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!! HAHA, PICK IT UP AND EAT IT, YOU STRAY CAT!!

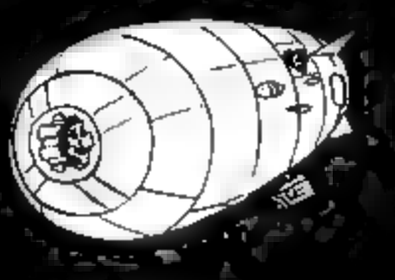

SFX: SLASH! / BZZZT!
I am Emeraldus. Long ago an old drunkard who used to sing to me, sat down and told me: "No matter how big you are, no matter how strong you are, you can't cross the sea of space. But even if you're small or hard of sight, an iron will can take you anywhere in the cosmos... Me? I've been rusting out my iron will with booze..."

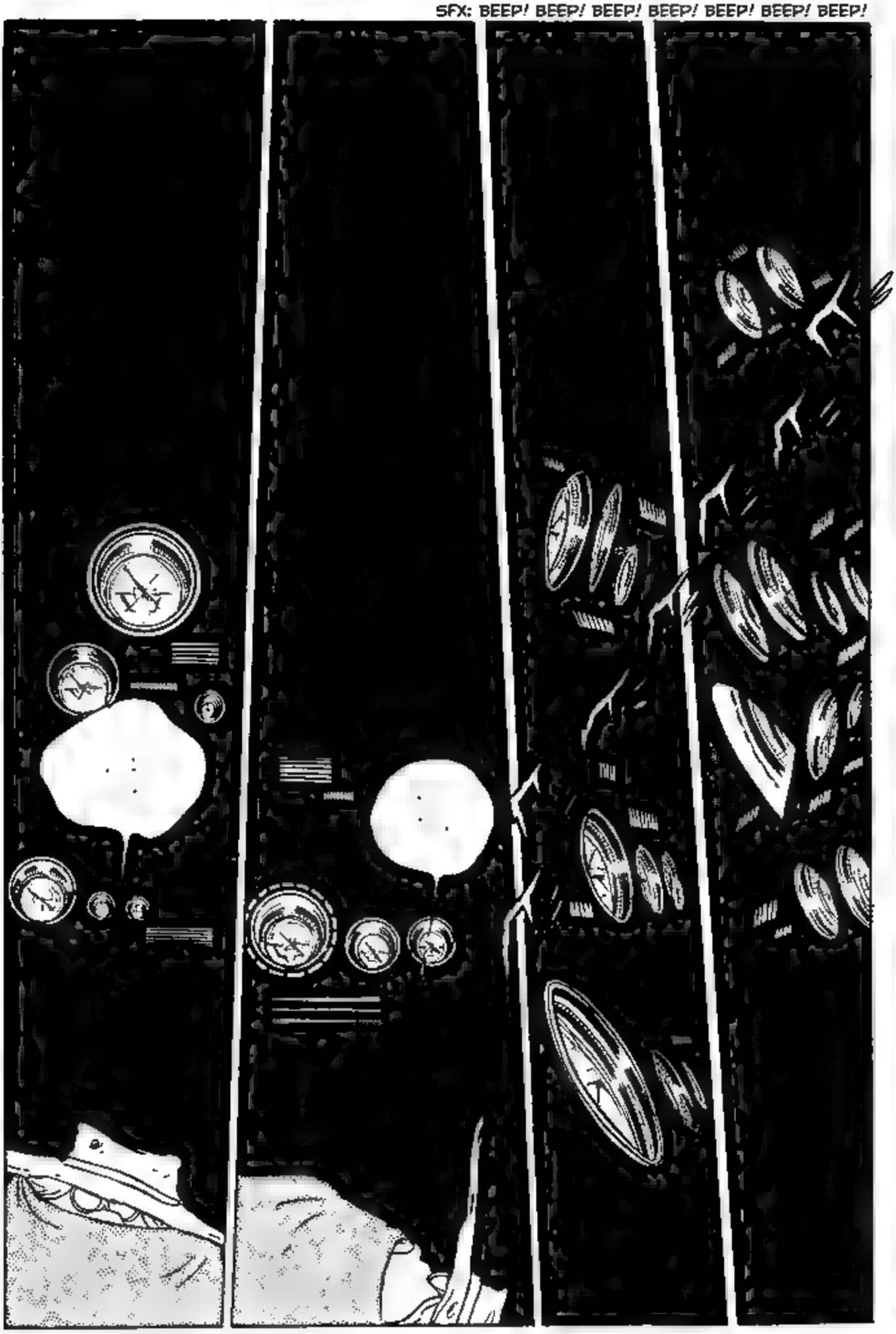
YOU JUST SAID HE COULD TAKE THE BONE, DID YOU NOT?
G... G... GOD-DAMNIT ...!

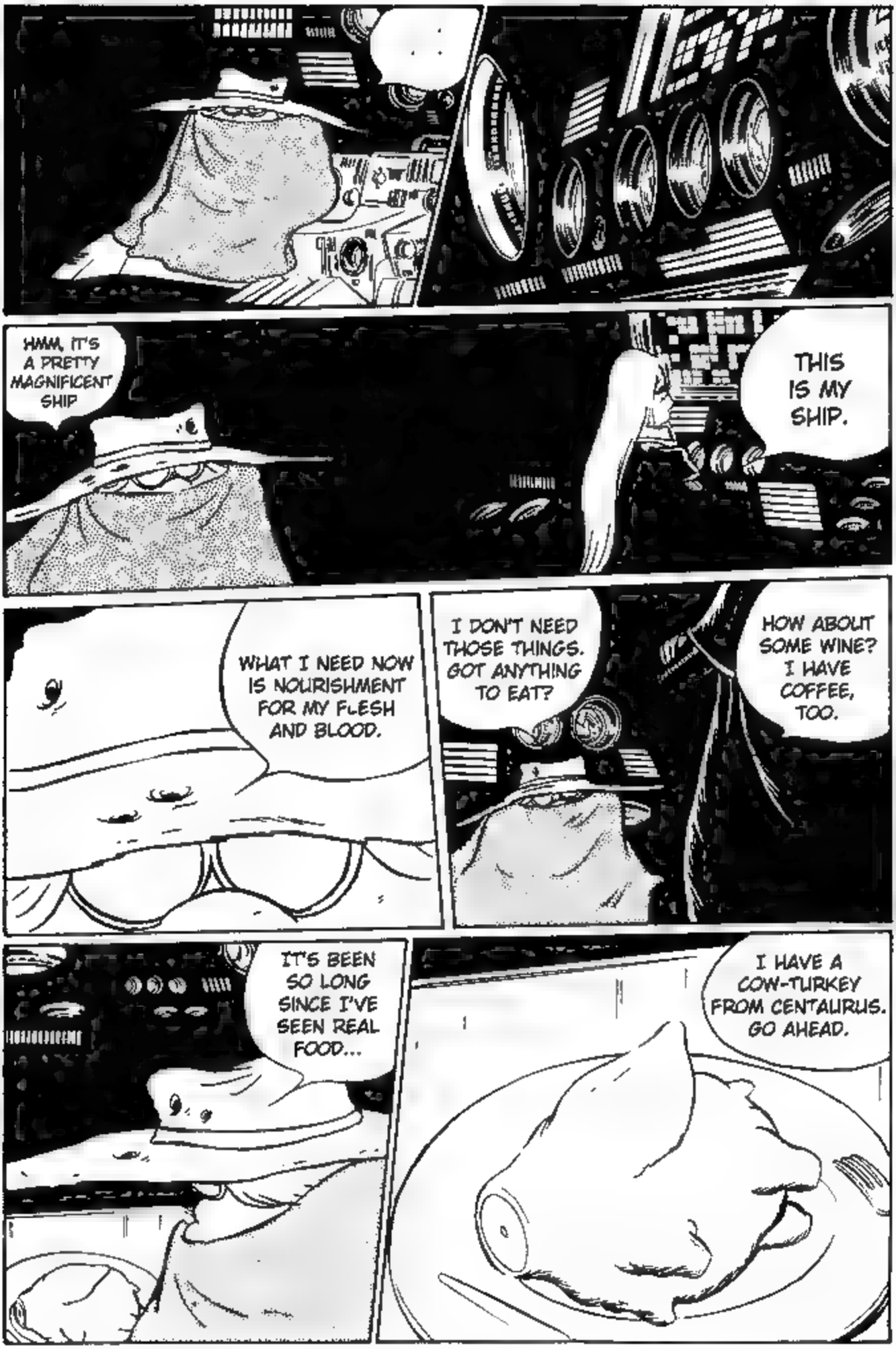

MY BONE...
DELI-CIOUS!!
CRUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!
NOW I FINALLY FEEL HUMAN AGAIN.
PHEWWW...
URGHHH!
SFX: CRASH! / WAUGHHH!
SFX: WAUGHHH!

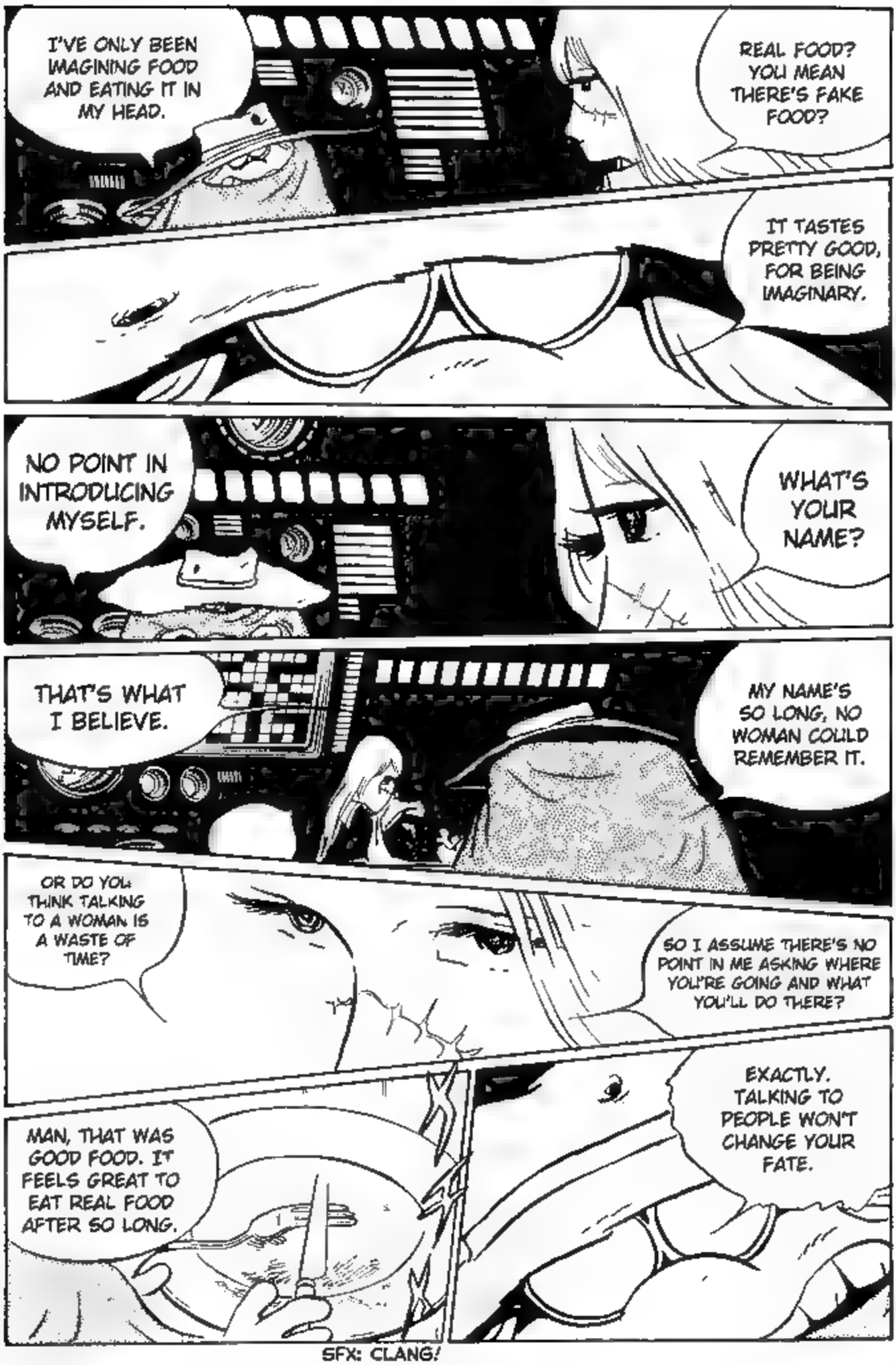
THROW HIM OUT!! THROW HIM OUT!!
SFX: DRIZZLE/

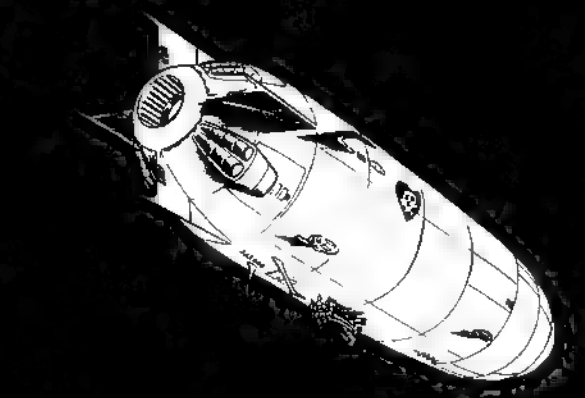
I am Emeraldus. And the prologue to my story started when I took this man onto my ship and left the quadruple star system.

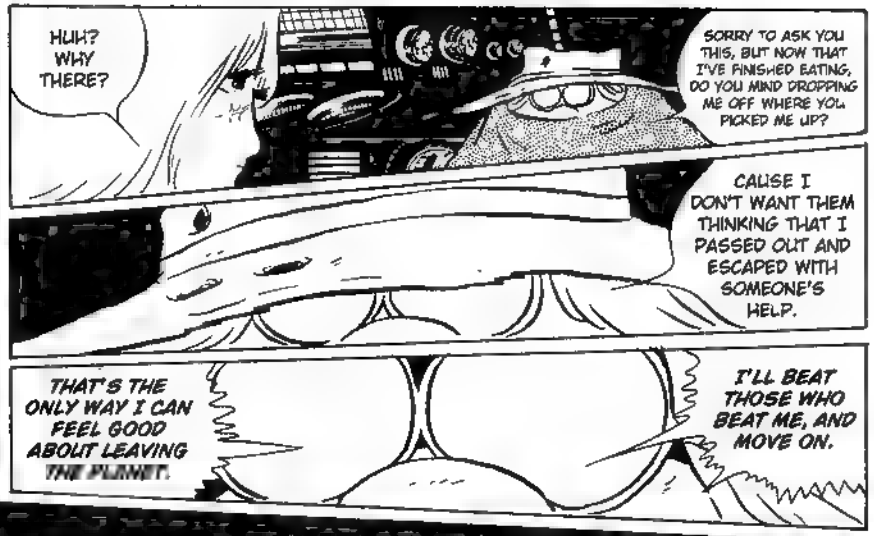



SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

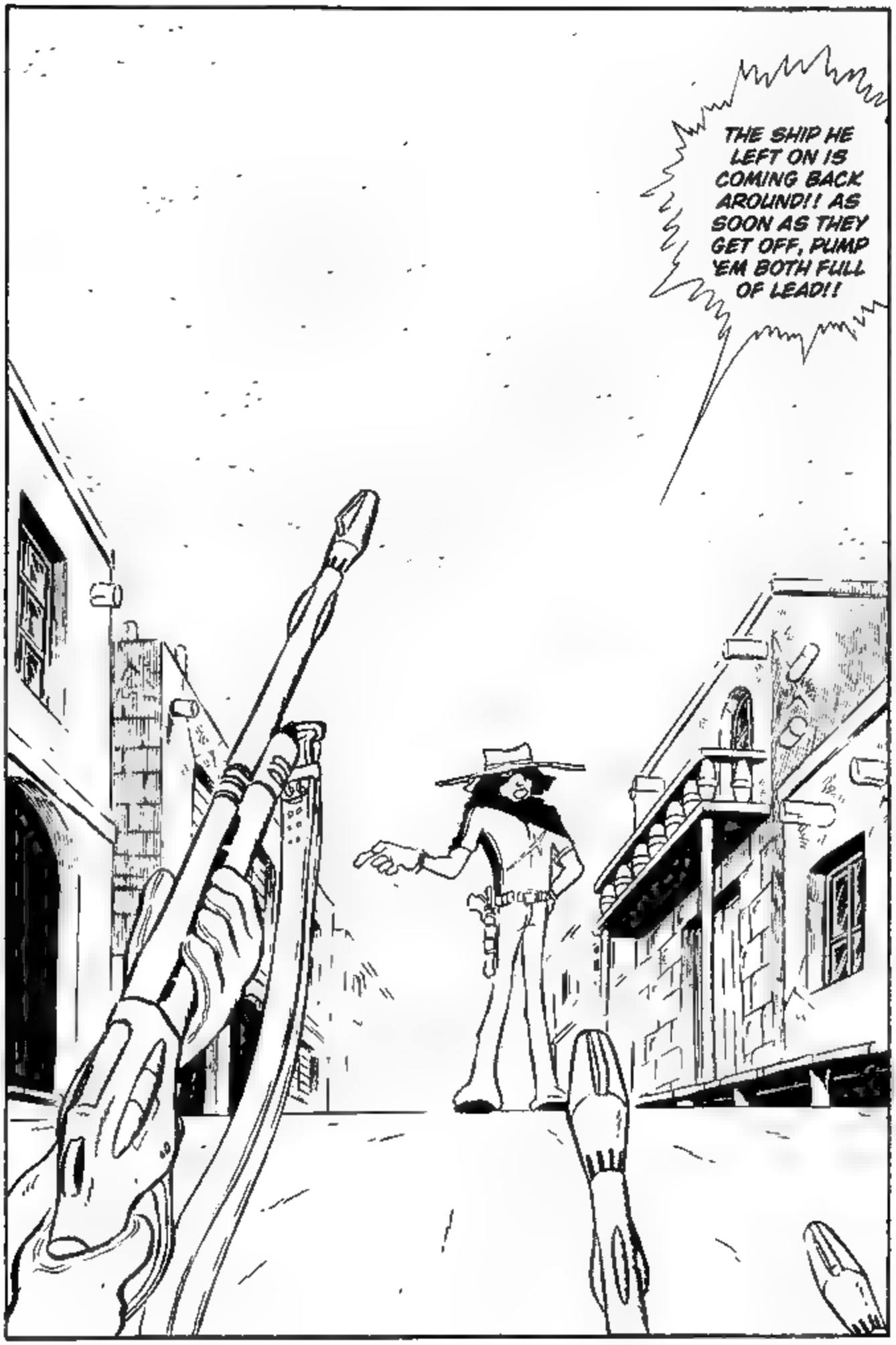

HMM, IT'S A PRETTY MAGNIFICENT SHIP
THIS IS MY SHIP.
WHAT I NEED NOW IS NOURISHMENT FOR MY FLESH AND BLOOD.
I DON'T NEED THOSE THINGS. GOT ANYTHING TO EAT?
HOW ABOUT SOME WINE? I HAVE COFFEE, TOO.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN REAL FOOD...
I HAVE A COW-TURKEY FROM CENTAURUS. GO AHEAD.

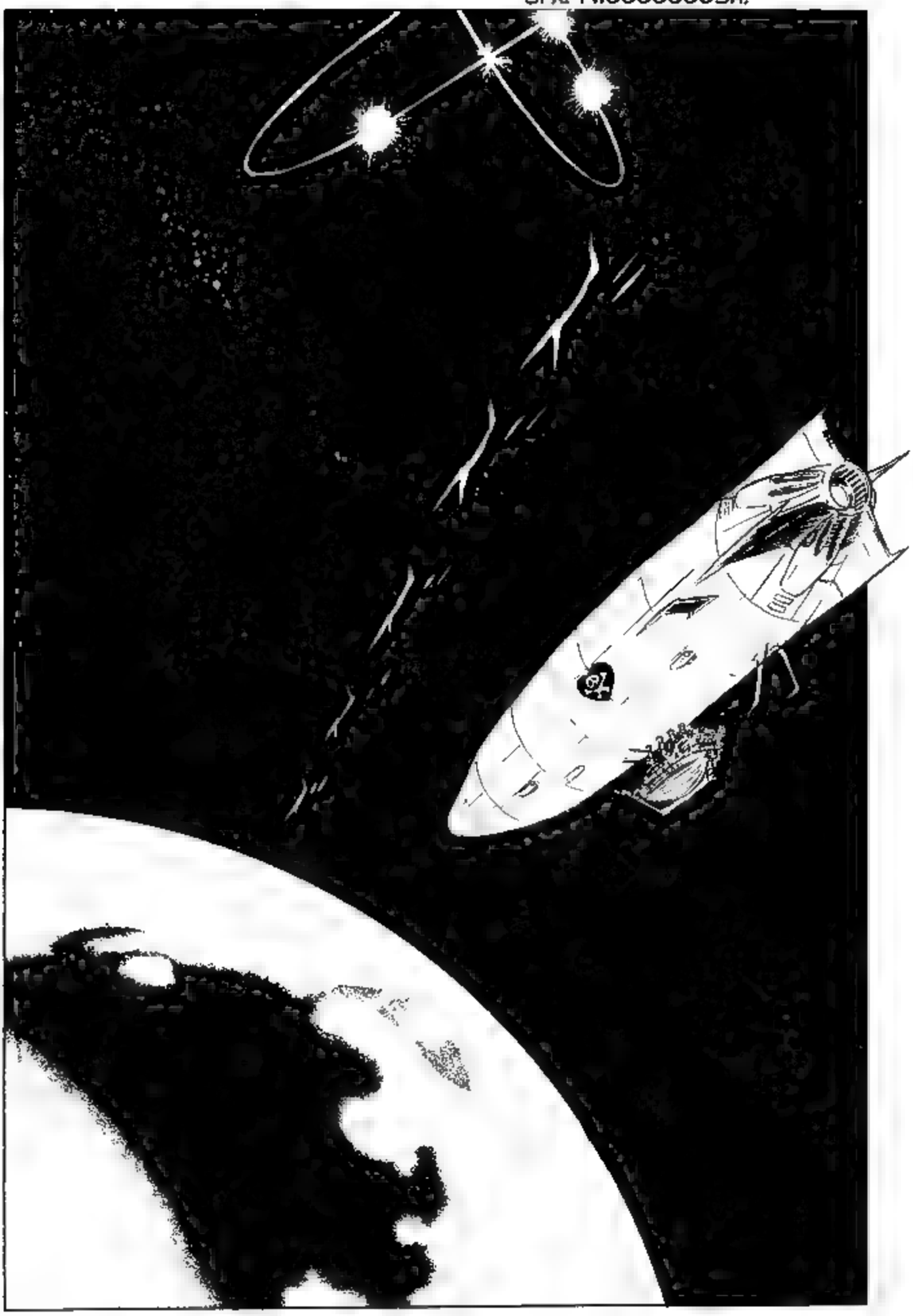

I'VE ONLY BEEN IMAGINING FOOD AND EATING IT IN MY HEAD.
REAL FOOD? YOU MEAN THERE'S FAKE FOOD?
IT TASTES PRETTY GOOD, FOR BEING IMAGINARY.
NO POINT IN INTRODUCING MYSELF.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.
MY NAME'S SO LONG, NO WOMAN COULD REMEMBER IT.
OR DO YOU THINK TALKING TO A WOMAN IS A WASTE OF TIME?
SO I ASSUME THERE'S NO POINT IN ME ASKING WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND WHAT YOU'LL DO THERE?
EXACTLY. TALKING TO PEOPLE WON'T CHANGE YOUR FATE.
MAN, THAT WAS GOOD FOOD. IT FEELS GREAT TO EAT REAL FOOD AFTER SO LONG.
SFX: CLANG!



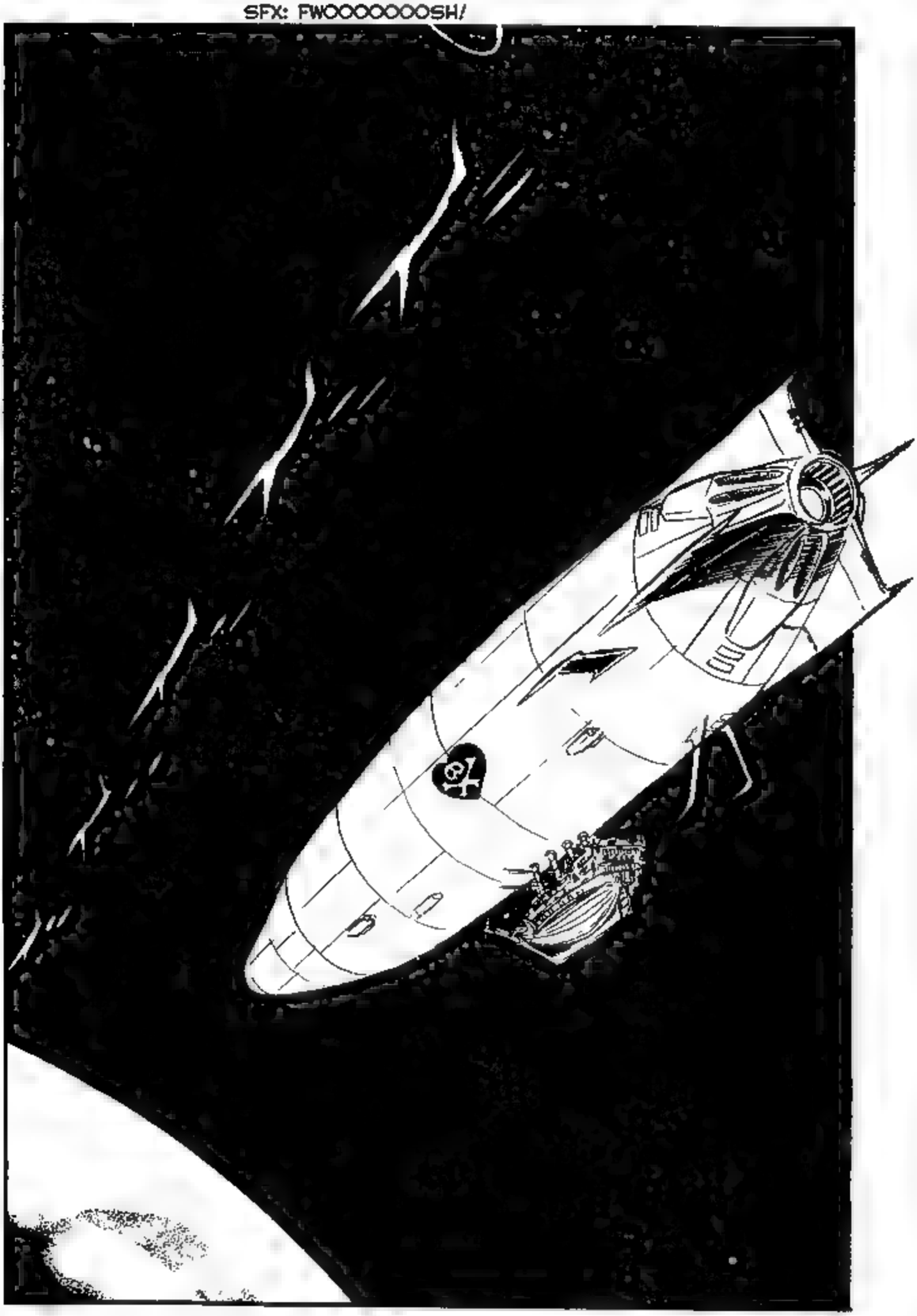

HUH? WHY THERE?
SORRY TO ASK YOU THIS, BUT NOW THAT I'VE FINISHED EATING, DO YOU MIND DROPPING ME OFF WHERE YOU PICKED ME UP?
CAUSE I DON'T WANT THEM THINKING THAT I PASSED OUT AND ESCAPED WITH SOMEONE'S HELP.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN FEEL GOOD ABOUT LEAVING THE PLANET.
I'LL BEAT THOSE WHO BEAT ME, AND MOVE ON.

For whatever reason, I could not defy his obstinacy...

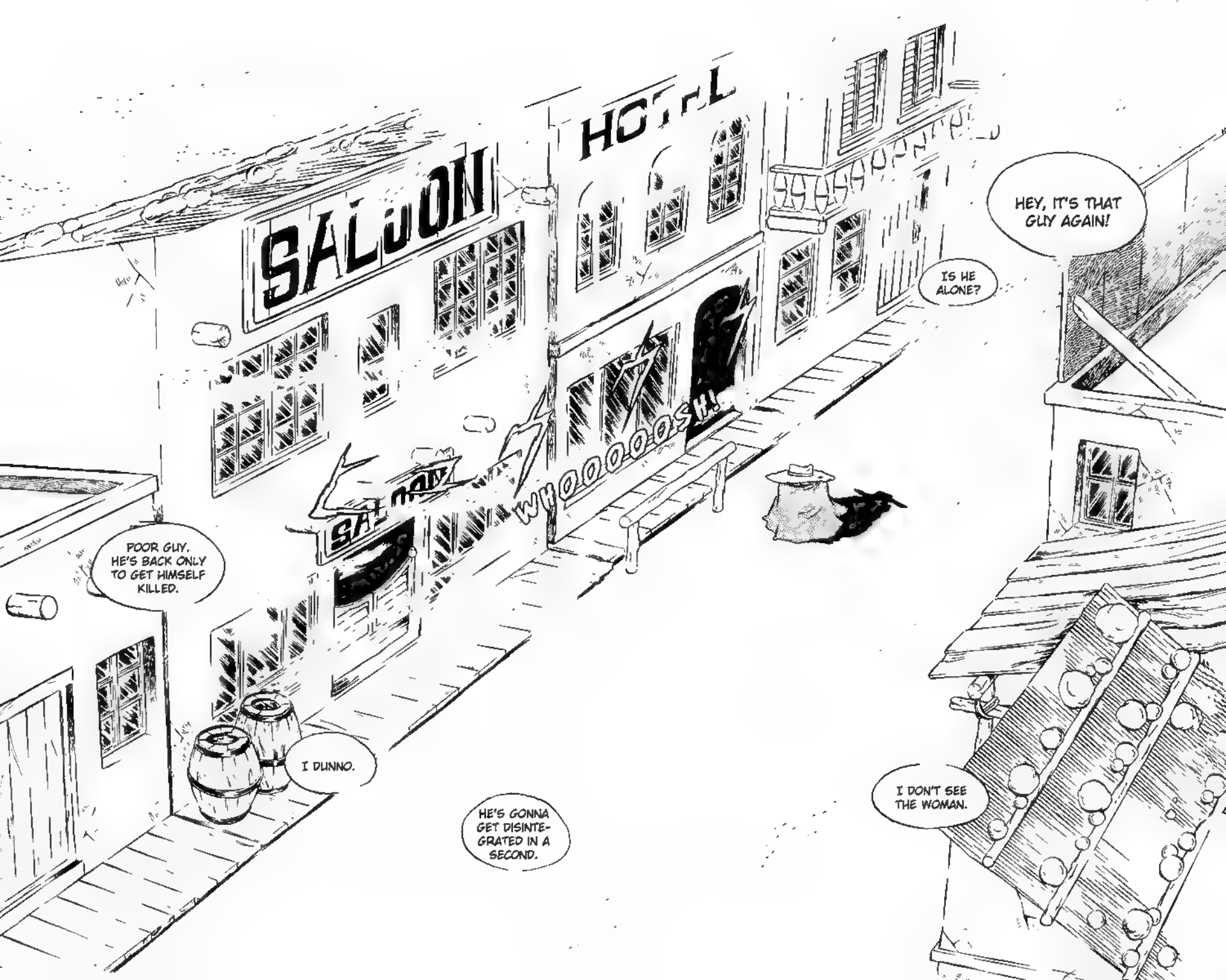

THE SHIP HE LEFT ON IS COMING BACK AROUND!! AS SOON AS THEY GET OFF, PUMP 'EM BOTH FULL OF LEAD!!


SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!



SFX: WHOOOOOSH!

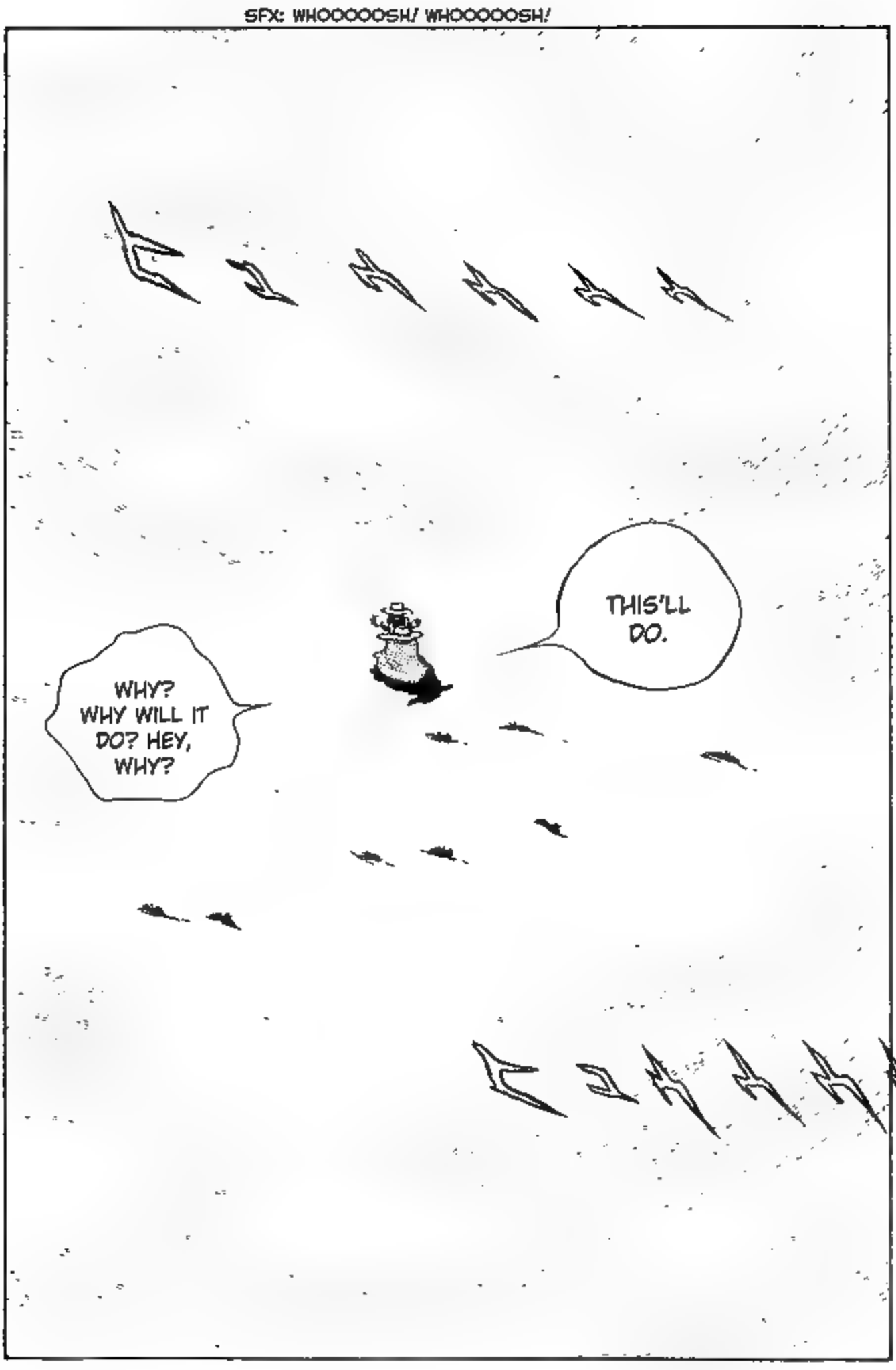

SALOON
HOTEL
WHOOOOOOSH!
POOR GUY. HE'S BACK ONLY TO GET HIMSELF KILLED.
I DUNNO.
HE'S GONNA GET DISINTE-GRATED IN A SECOND.
IS HE ALONE?
HEY, IT'S THAT GUY AGAIN!
I DON'T SEE THE WOMAN.

WE'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST SECOND TO PRAY. AFTER THE PRAYER, YOU'RE DEAD!
STOP, YOU FOOL!!
!!

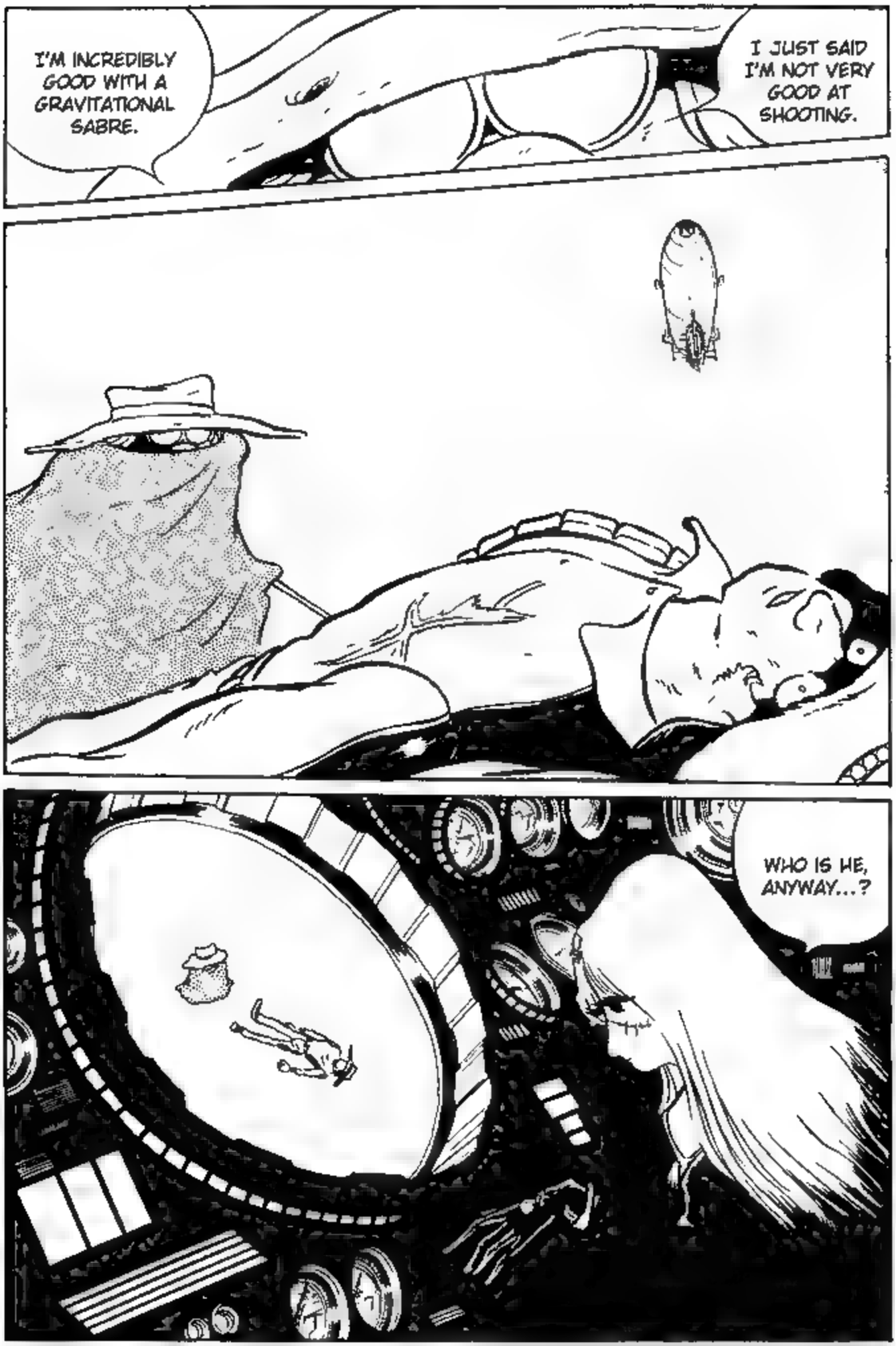
SFX: FSSHHHH!
SFX: SLASH! / SWOOOSH!
DISINTEGRATED AND GONE...!!

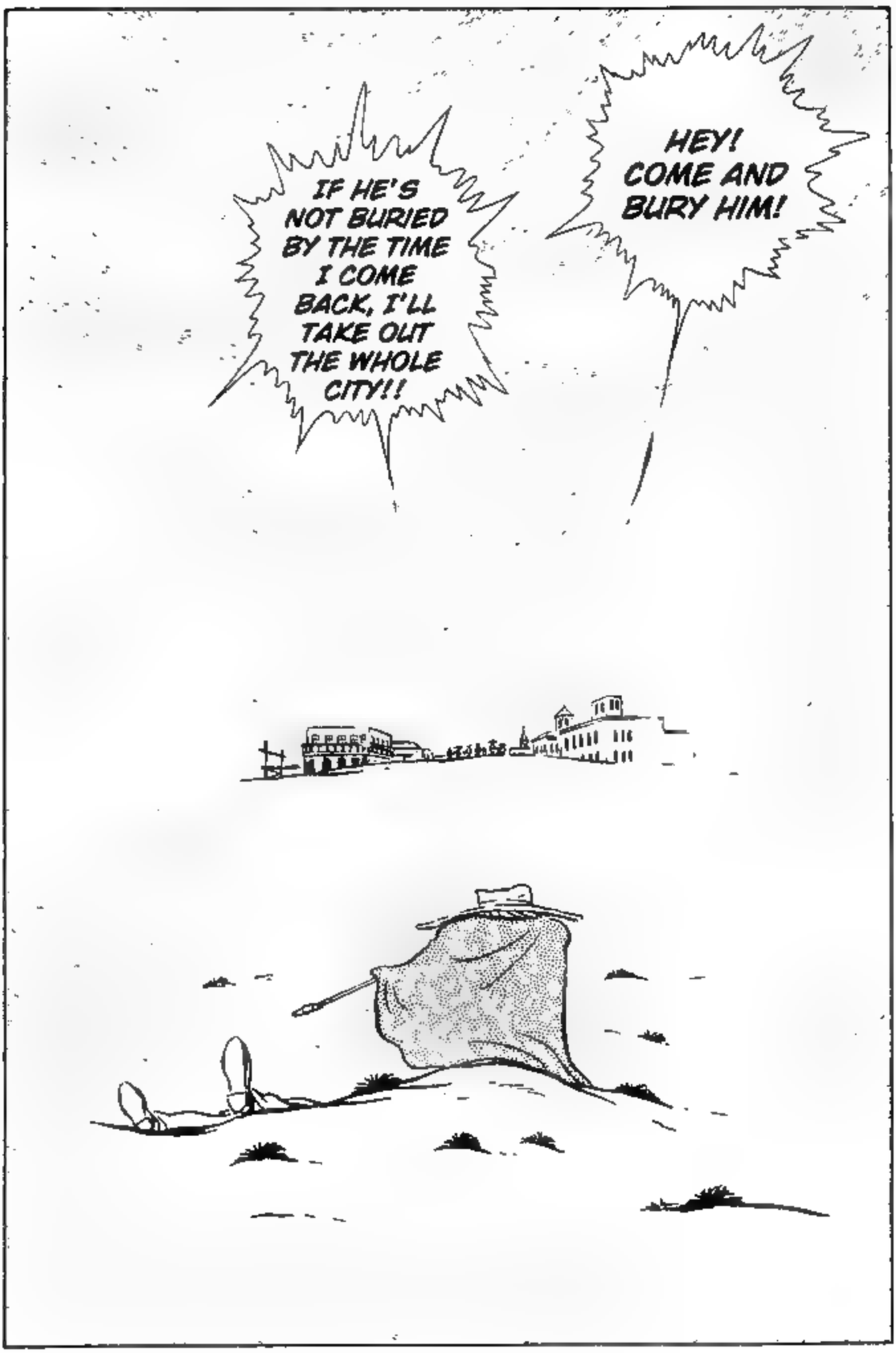
HE'S BEEN ATOMIZED. WHAT AN IDIOT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT THE IDIOT?
WHAT?
WAIT. HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? HEY!
WHAT YOU JUST FIRED AT WAS MY SHADOW I'M VERY CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES!
AHHH...

W-WHERE TO?
JUST WALK STRAIGHT.
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS?
TO AN OPEN PLACE WHERE I CAN BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF WITHOUT ANYONE INTERFERING.
B... B... BUT WASN'T THAT A SHADOW?
AS SERIOUS AS YOU WERE WHEN YOU SHOT ME.
HUH? HUH? HUH? HEY, PLEASE! HEY!
T-T-THERE'S NO REASON TO GET SO MAD AT ME WHEN I SHOT YOUR SHADOW!
AREN'T YOU A MAN? THEN SHUT UP.


SFX: WHOOOOOSH/ WHOOOOOSH/
THIS'LL DO.
WHY? WHY WILL IT DO? HEY, WHY?

YES.
A DUEL?
I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE IF WE'RE TOO FAR APART.
I DON'T HAVE A GOOD AIM, YOU SEE.
WHY ARE WE SO CLOSE TOGETHER?
SO YOU MEAN THAT YOU'RE A LOSER!
THEN DIE!
UNN GH!
SFX: STAB!

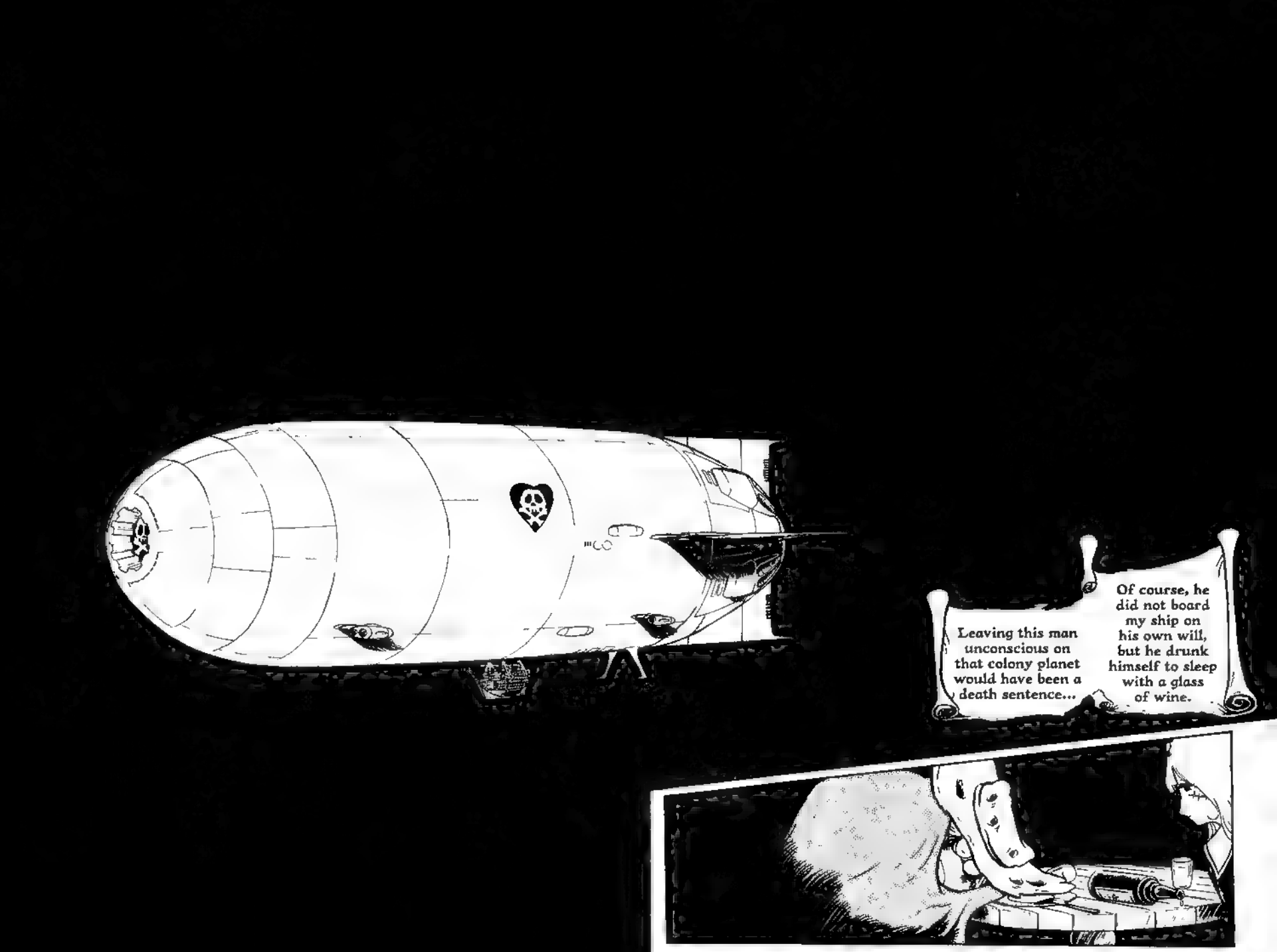

I'M INCREDIBLY GOOD WITH A GRAVITATIONAL SABRE.
I JUST SAID I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT SHOOTING.
WHO IS HE, ANYWAY...?


IF HE'S NOT BURIED BY THE TIME I COME BACK, I'LL TAKE OUT THE WHOLE CITY!!
HEY! COME AND BURY HIM!

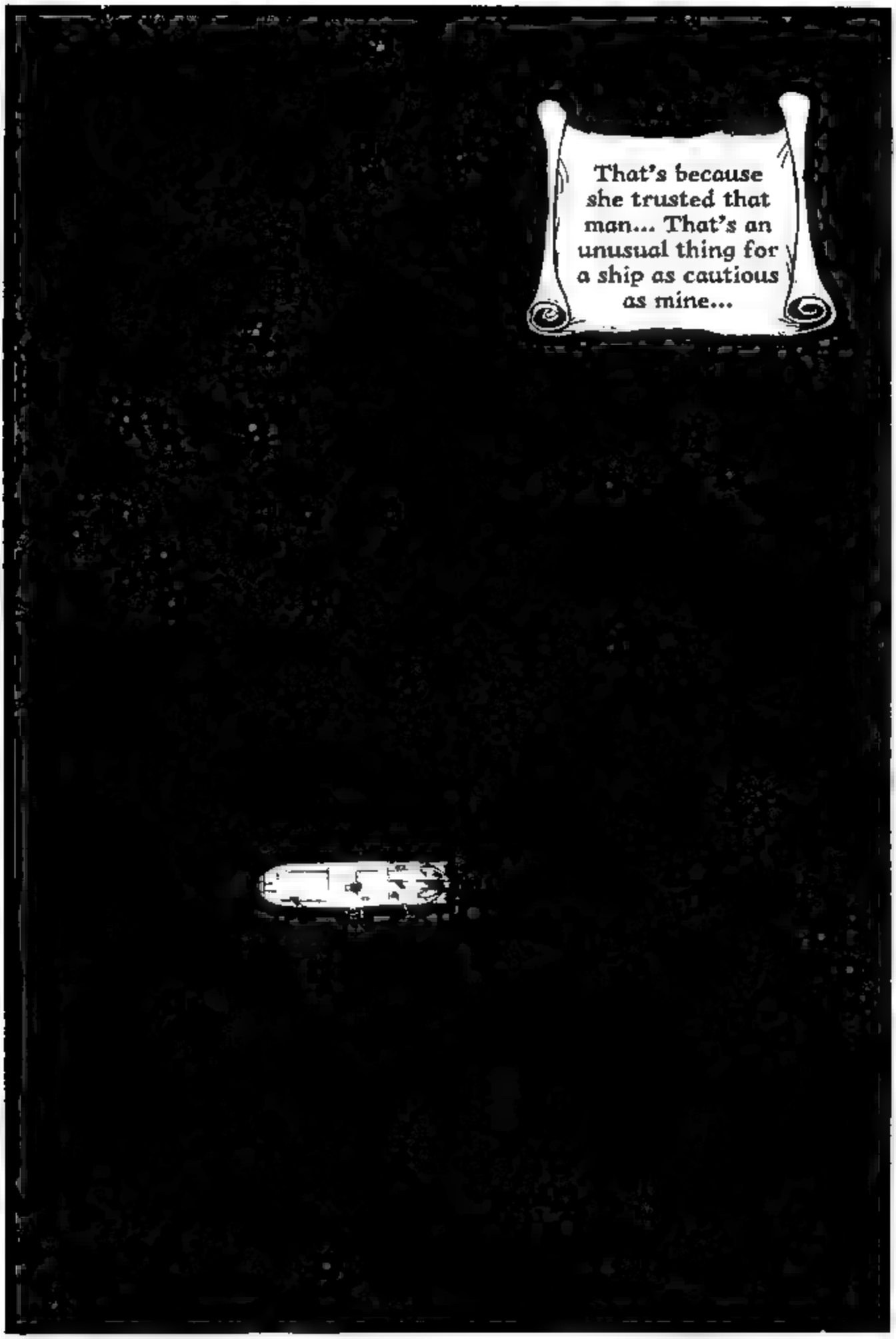
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

NO, I DON'T NEED ANY HELP. I'LL FIND MY WAY.
YOU WANT A LIFT TO A NEARBY PLANET?
LET'S EAT!!
FOOD ...!?
I WAS THINKING OF EATING IN TOWN. WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP ME COMPANY?
I am Emeraldus. As I watched this man eat, I realized that this man was mighty, and had survived his share of battles on lawless planets, in spite of his small frame...

I am Emeraldus... That was the first time in my long wandering journey that I took a passenger other than Umino Hiroshi.


Leaving this man unconscious on that colony planet would have been a death sentence...
Of course, he did not board my ship on his own will, but he drunk himself to sleep with a glass of wine.

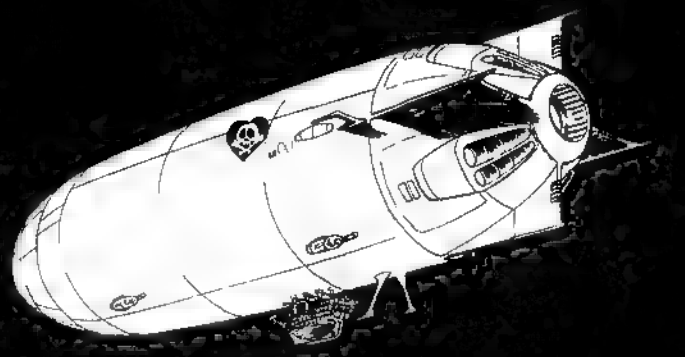
I knew the man would be angry when he woke up, but my ship agreed to taking him in.
He must have been more concerned with ensuring food for his flesh and blood.
This man must have gone without alcohol for a long time.
I've never seen a man with as little alcohol tolerance as him.


That's because she trusted that man... That's an unusual thing for a ship as cautious as mine...

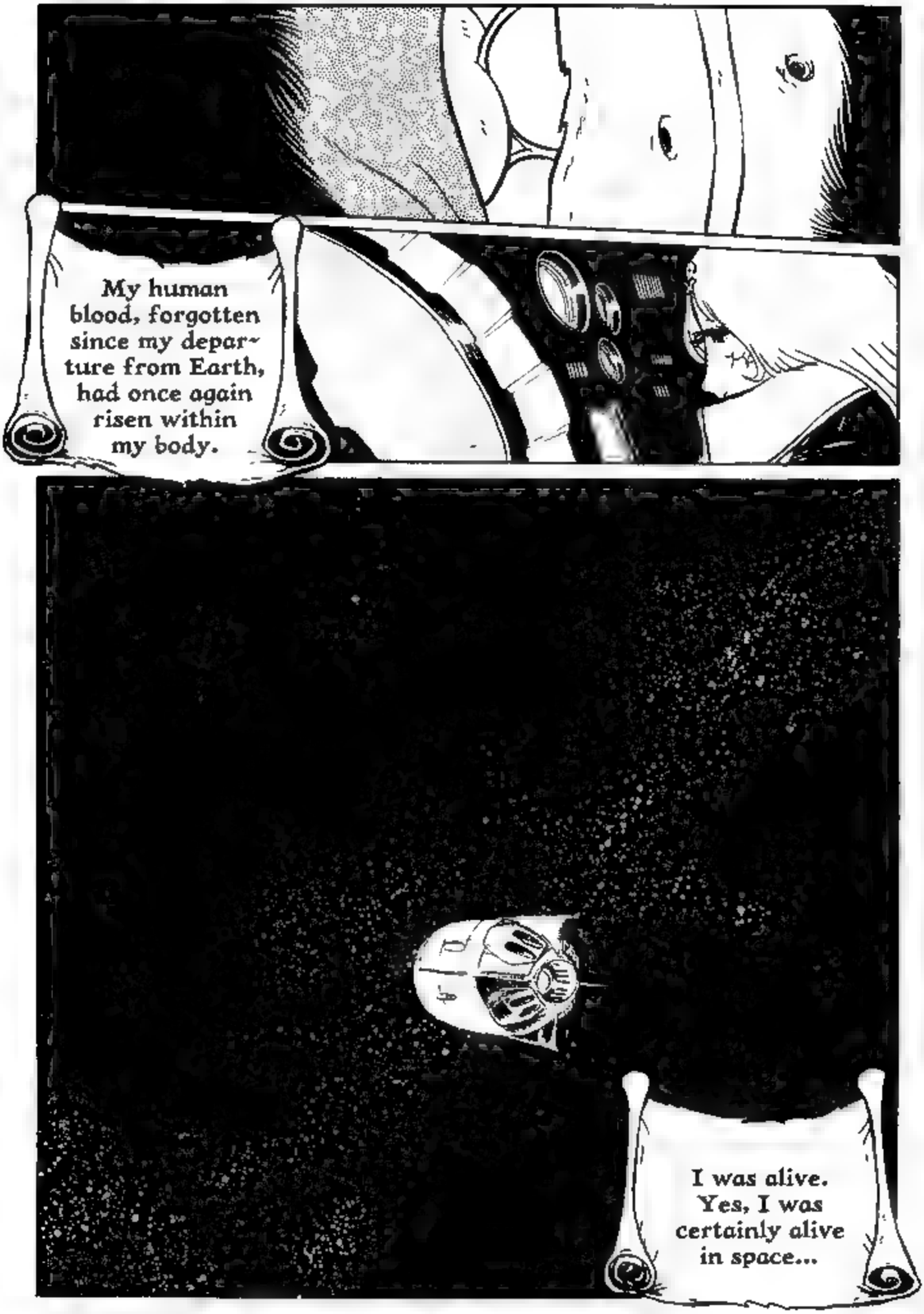
My memories of battle... of pain and fatigue along this journey through space gave way to tranquil memories, as if they had never happened.

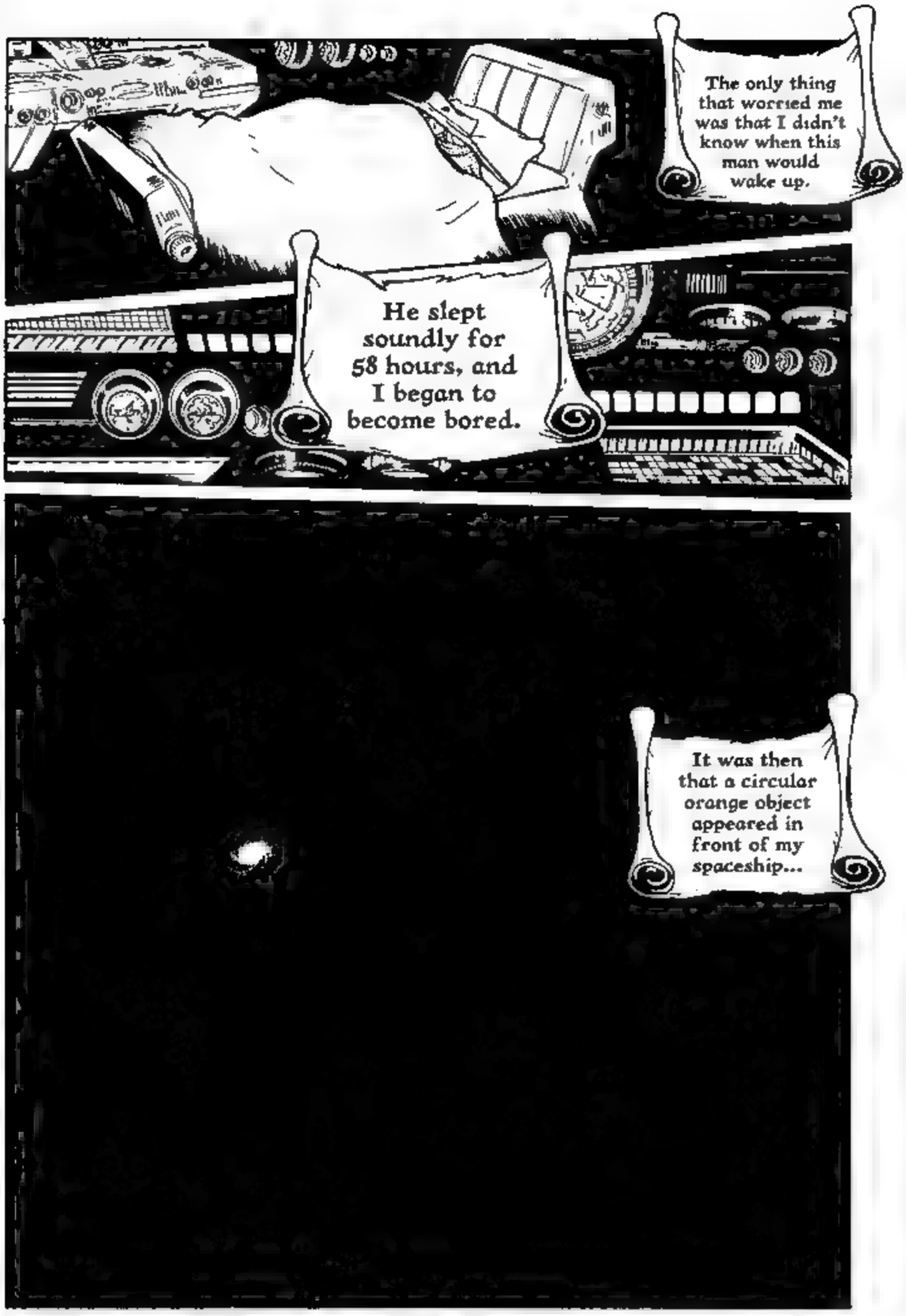
I felt heart-warmed for the first time in my life...

I had never traveled this vast sea of space with such a state of mind...



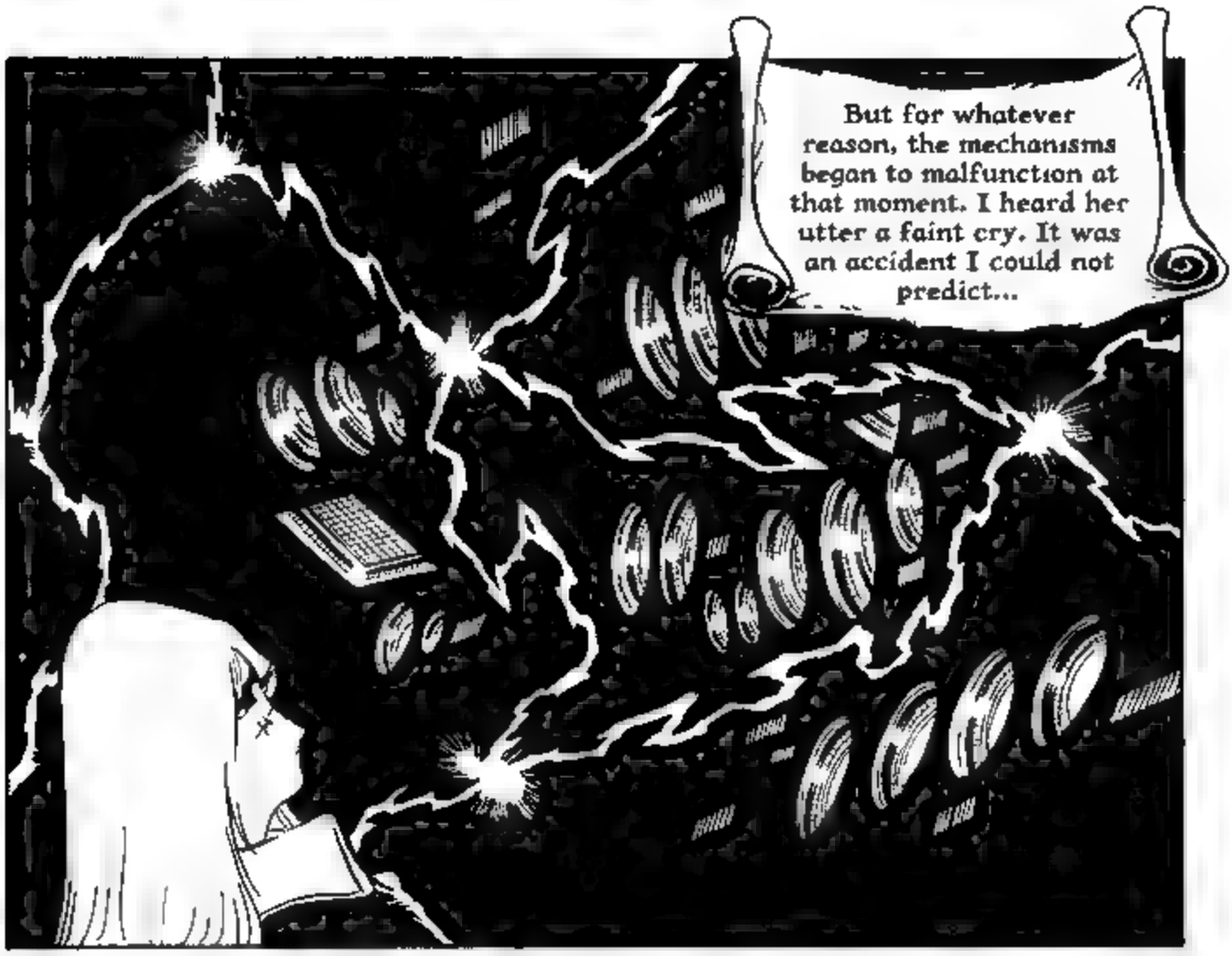
The infinite stars were filled with life, almost seeming to be irreplaceable jewels...


My human blood, forgotten since my depar-ture from Earth, had once again risen within my body.
I was alive. Yes, I was certainly alive in space...

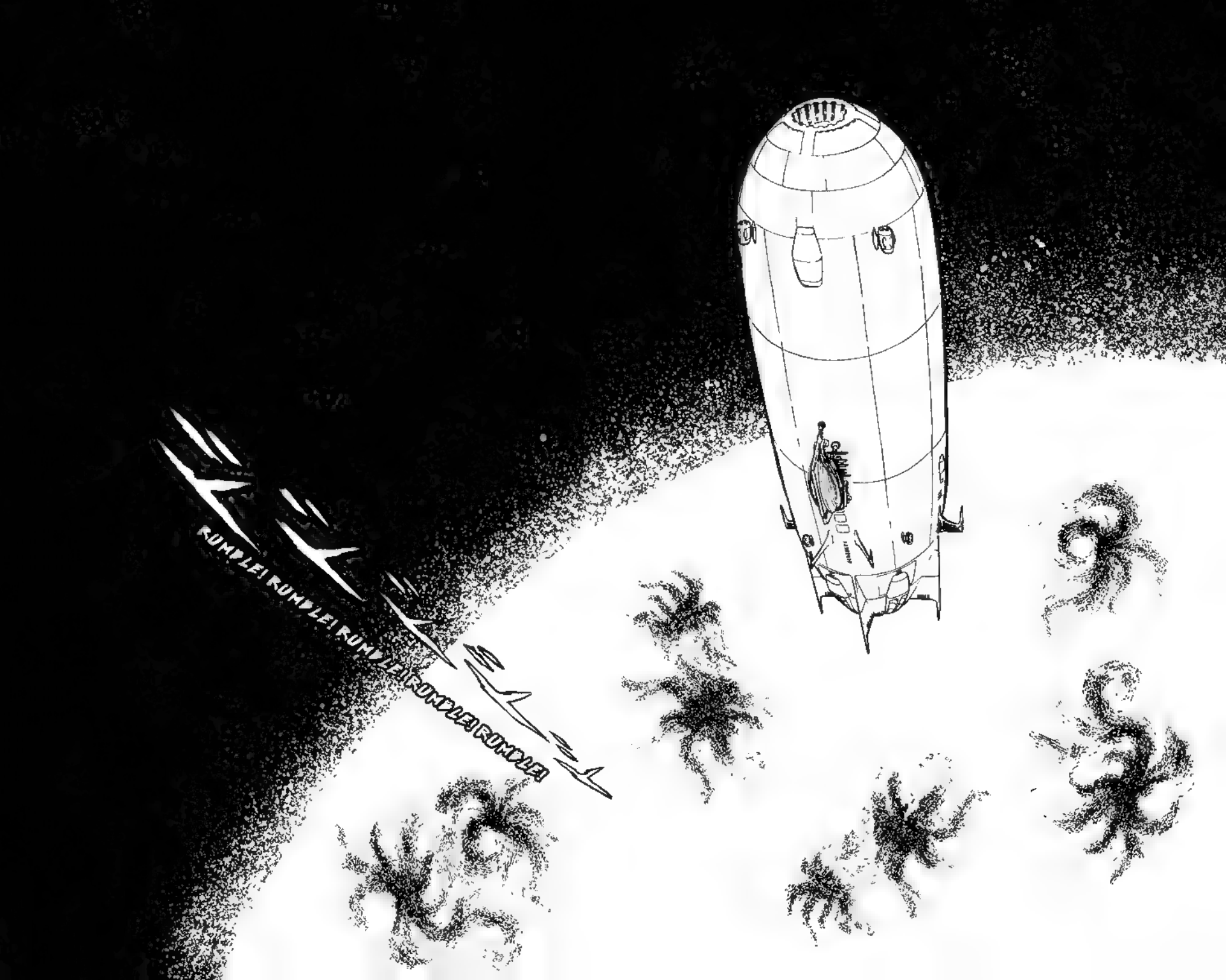

The only thing that worried me was that I didn't know when this man would wake up.
He slept soundly for 58 hours, and I began to become bored.
It was then that a circular orange object appeared in front of my spaceship...

The Red Giant Zorvac! Space twisted around Zorvac as it orbited at high speeds, and the centrifugal force was crushing the star itself. It was a dangerous star that no traveller would dare approach...

But it was a simple task for the Queen Emeraldus to pass by it. Not even Zorvac's gravity could hinder her course.


But for whatever reason, the mechanisms began to malfunction at that moment. I heard her utter a faint cry. It was an accident I could not predict...

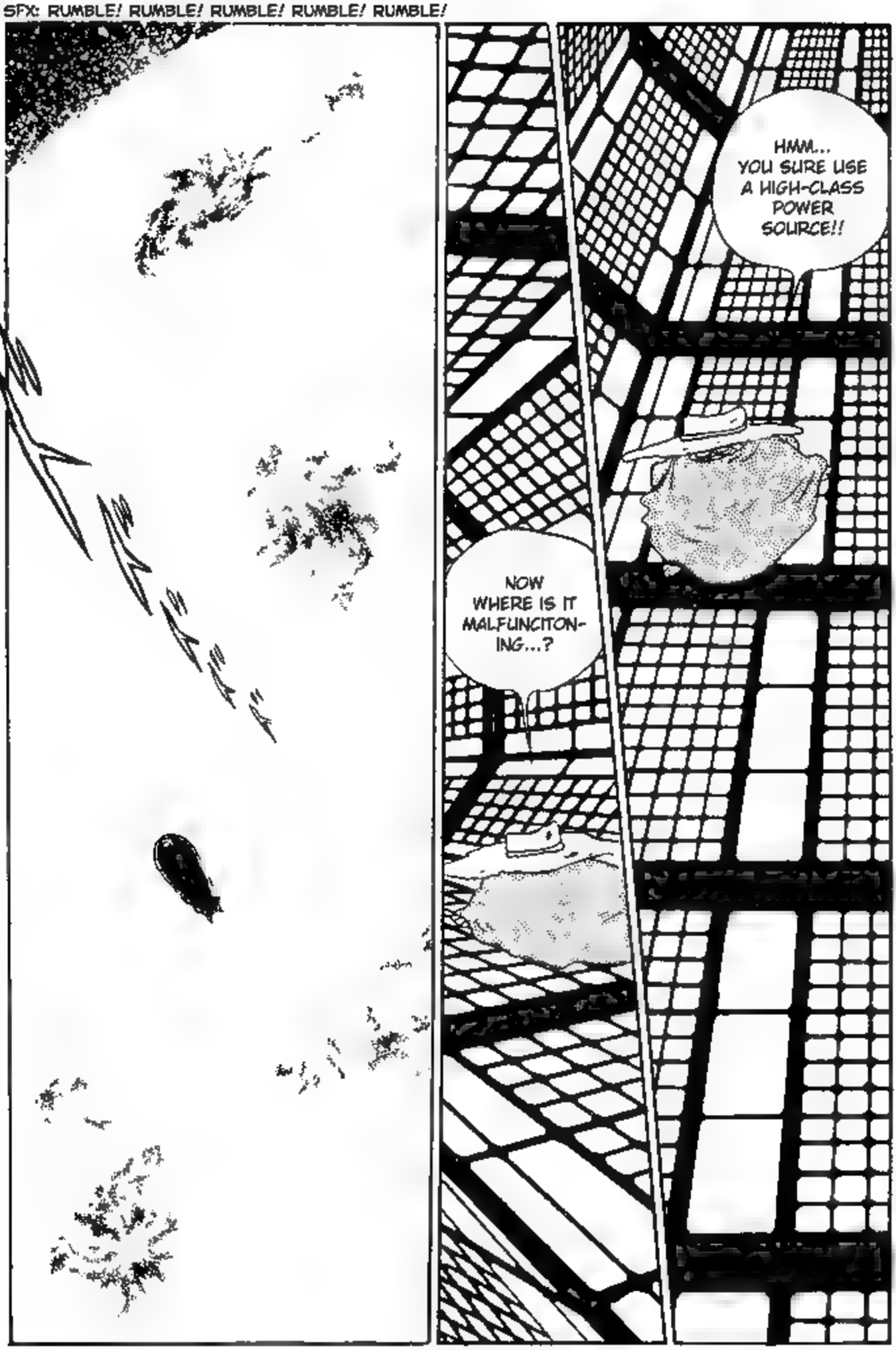
A malfunction here would mean certain death. There is simply no way of resisting a red giant's gravity...
It was then that the man awoke. Incredibly, after I had explained the situation to him, he showed no signs of panic.
YOU LOST THRUST? A MECHANICAL PROBLEM? HMM... WELL, I THINK WE'LL BE ALRIGHT.

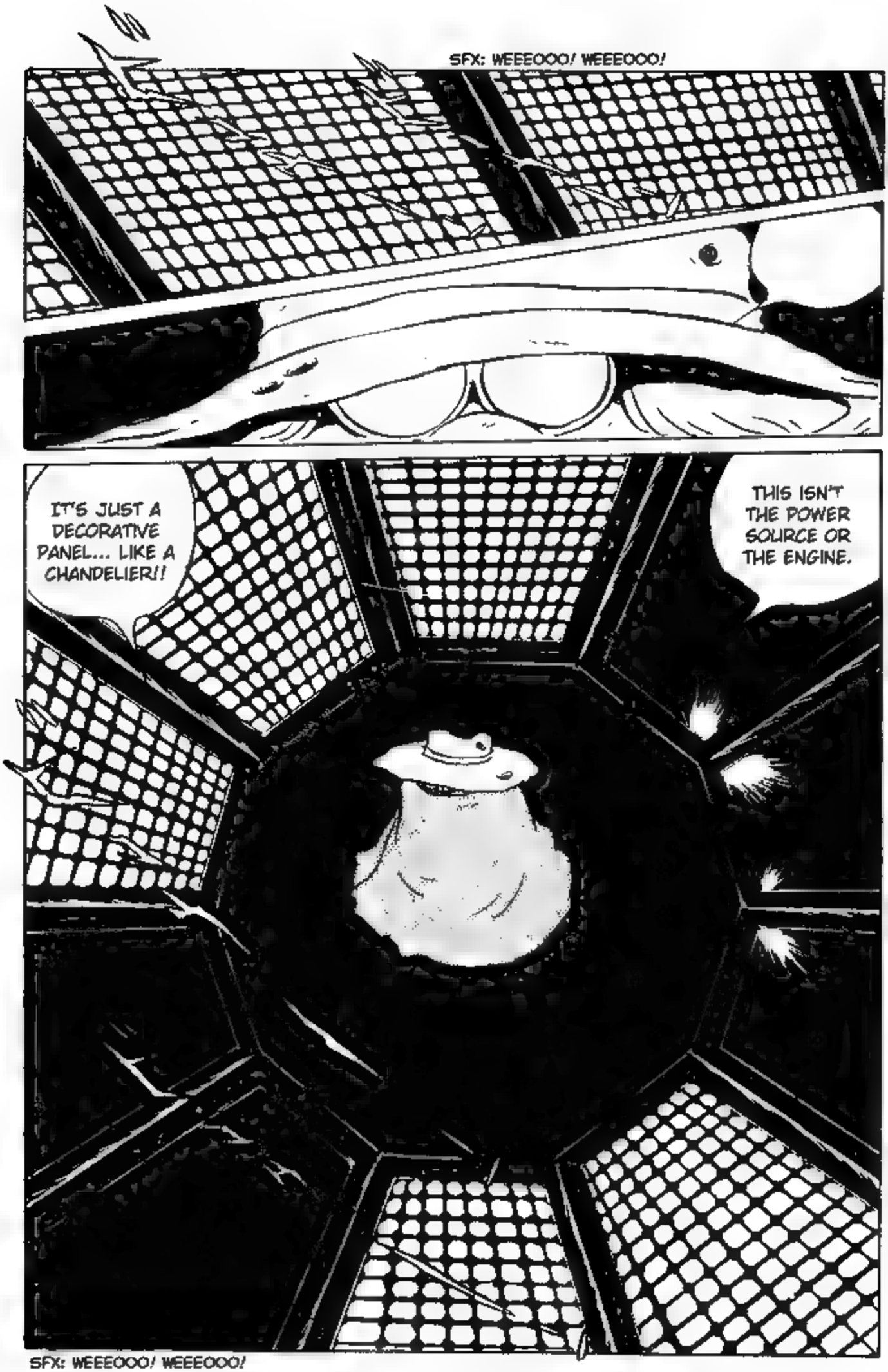

RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

SFX: ROOOAAARRR!

NOW, NOW, I SAID IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.
I CAN'T LAY A FINGER ON HER BRAIN.
THIS SHIP'S REALLY ANNOYING CAN'T YOU SHUT HER UP?
DESCENT SPEED AT PLUS 10! REPAIR THRUST IMMEDIATELY!
THRUST DOWN 80%... CANNOT RESIST GRAVITATIONAL FORCE!! REPAIR IMMEDIATELY!!
HMM... YOUR METERS ARE SHOWING ANOMALIES... NO, THEY'RE ALL MESSED-UP.
IT IS, BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN TOUCHED IT.
MUST BE THE POWER SOURCE. IS THE ENGINE BELOW HERE?

The ship's outer plating was about to reach melting temperatures. If that happened, we would be like flies in Zorvac's web...

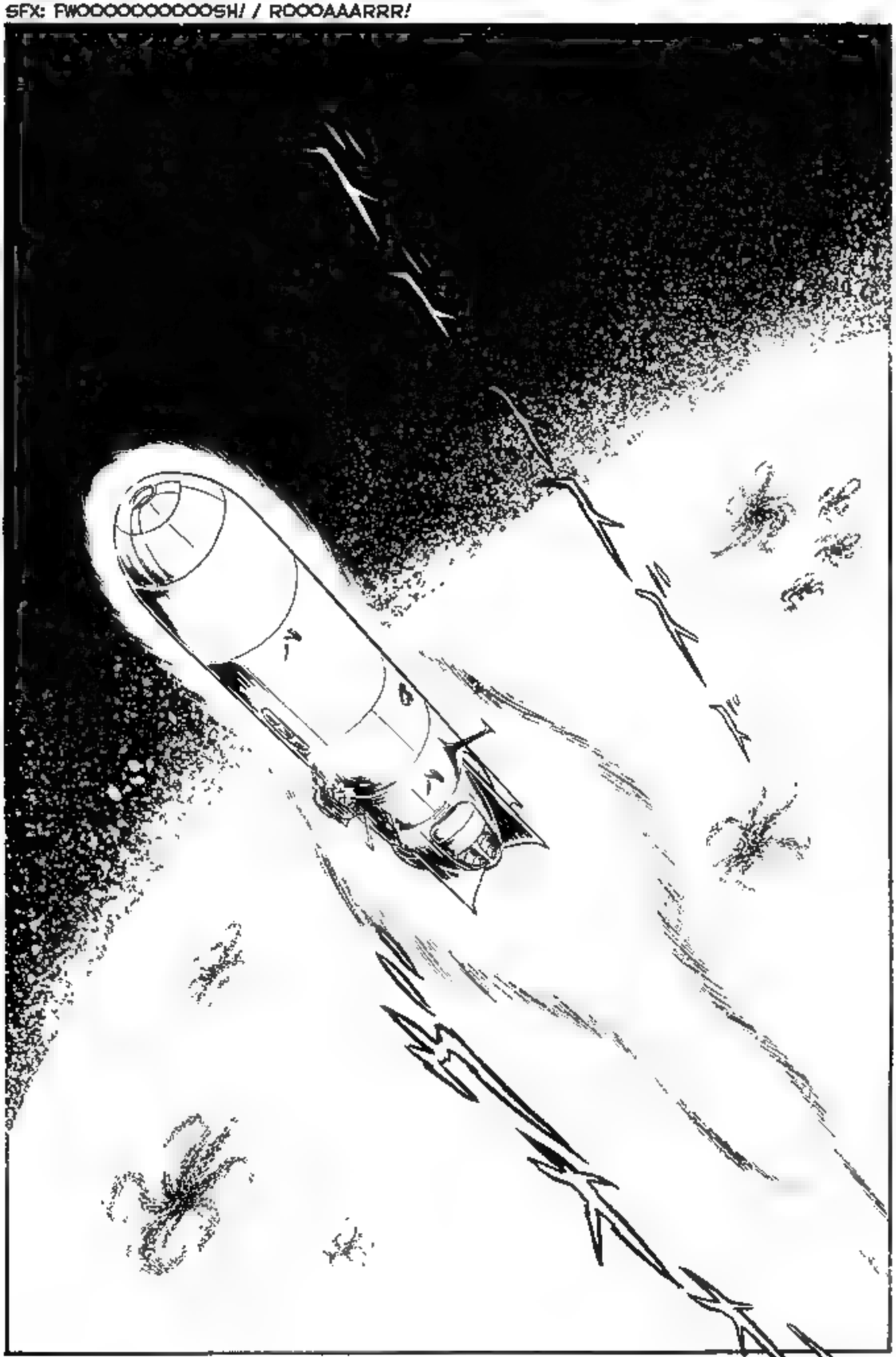

SFX: RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!
HMM... YOU SURE USE A HIGH-CLASS POWER SOURCE!!
NOW WHERE IS IT MALFUNCITON-ING...?


SFX: WEEEOOO! WEEEOOO!
IT'S JUST A DECORATIVE PANEL... LIKE A CHANDELIER!!
THIS ISN'T THE POWER SOURCE OR THE ENGINE.
SFX: WEEEOOO! WEEEOOO!

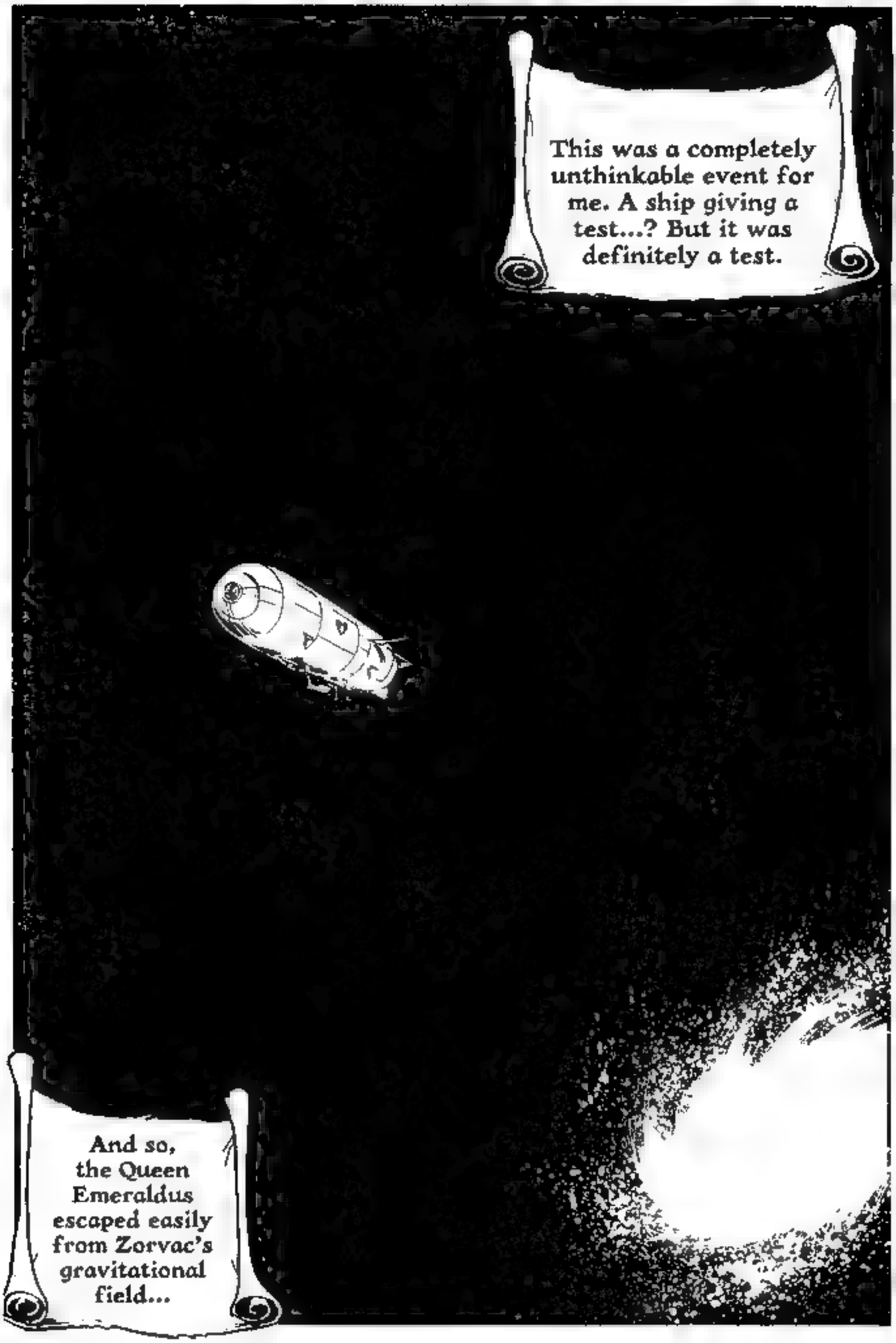
SFX: RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!
SFX: WEEEOOO! WEEEOOO! WEEEOOO!

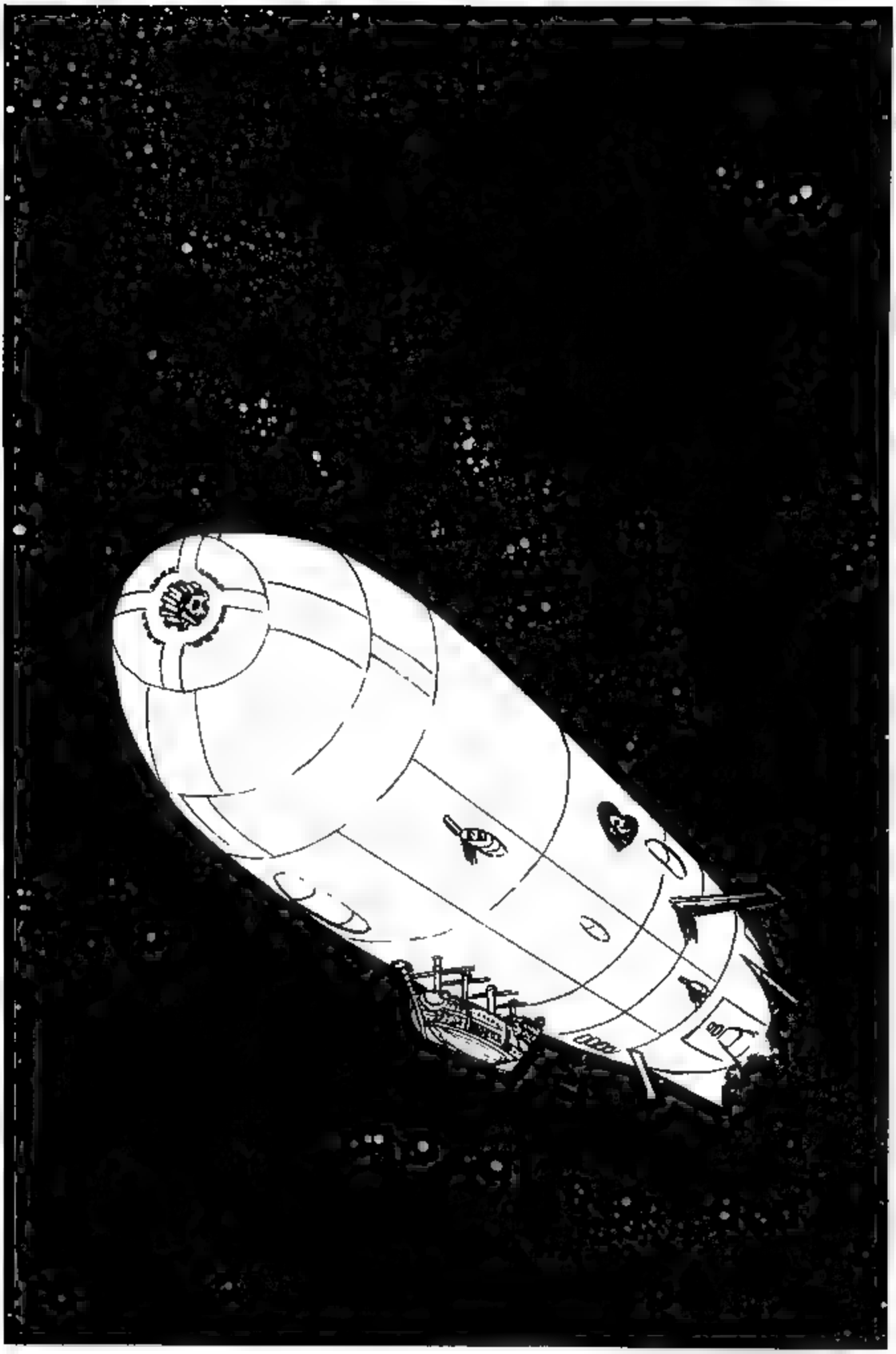
HOW'D IT GO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOW DARE A MERE SHIP TRY TO PUT MY SKILLS TO THE TEST! IF YOU DON'T STOP FAKING A PROBLEM, I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL SMASH YOU!!
DAMMIT!! YOU'RE NOT BROKEN AT ALL, ARE YOU?

SFX: FWOOOOOOOOOOSH! / ROOOAAARRR!

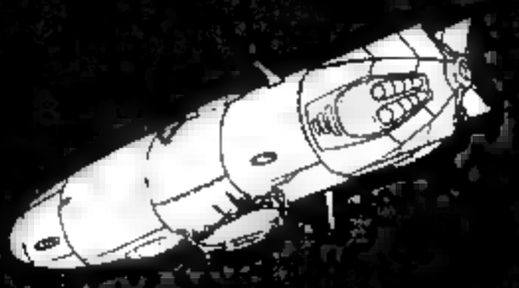


THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SHIP IS PUTTING YOU TO THE TEST?
BUT IT CAN'T FOOL ME. THIS SHIP IS OPERATING NORMALLY.
IT ONLY REDUCED ITS THRUST SO IT COULD TEST ME.
THIS SHIP IS PRETTY SKEPTICAL.
...
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

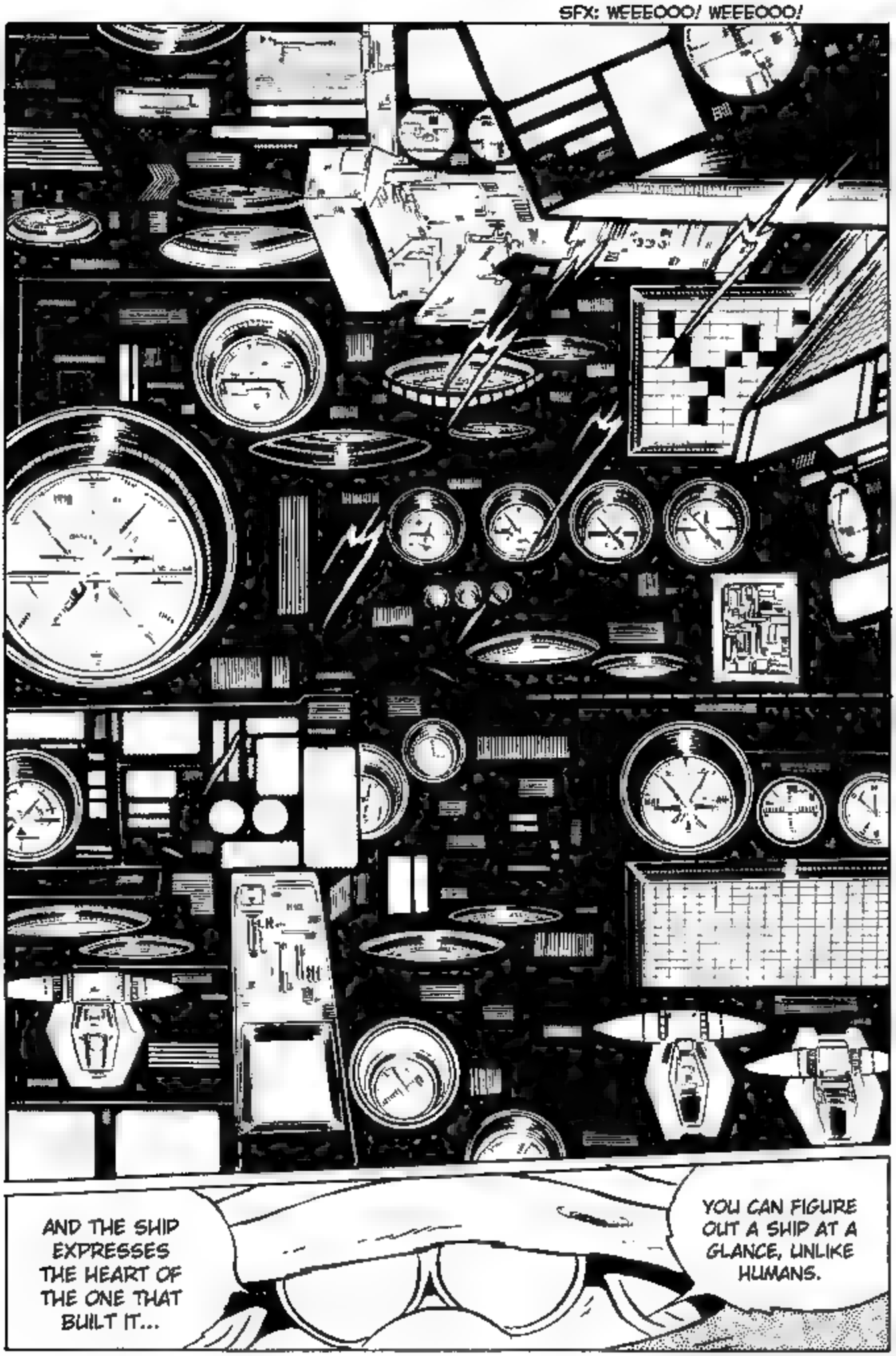

This was a completely unthinkable event for me. A ship giving a test...? But it was definitely a test.
And so, the Queen Emeraldus escaped easily from Zorvac's gravitational field...

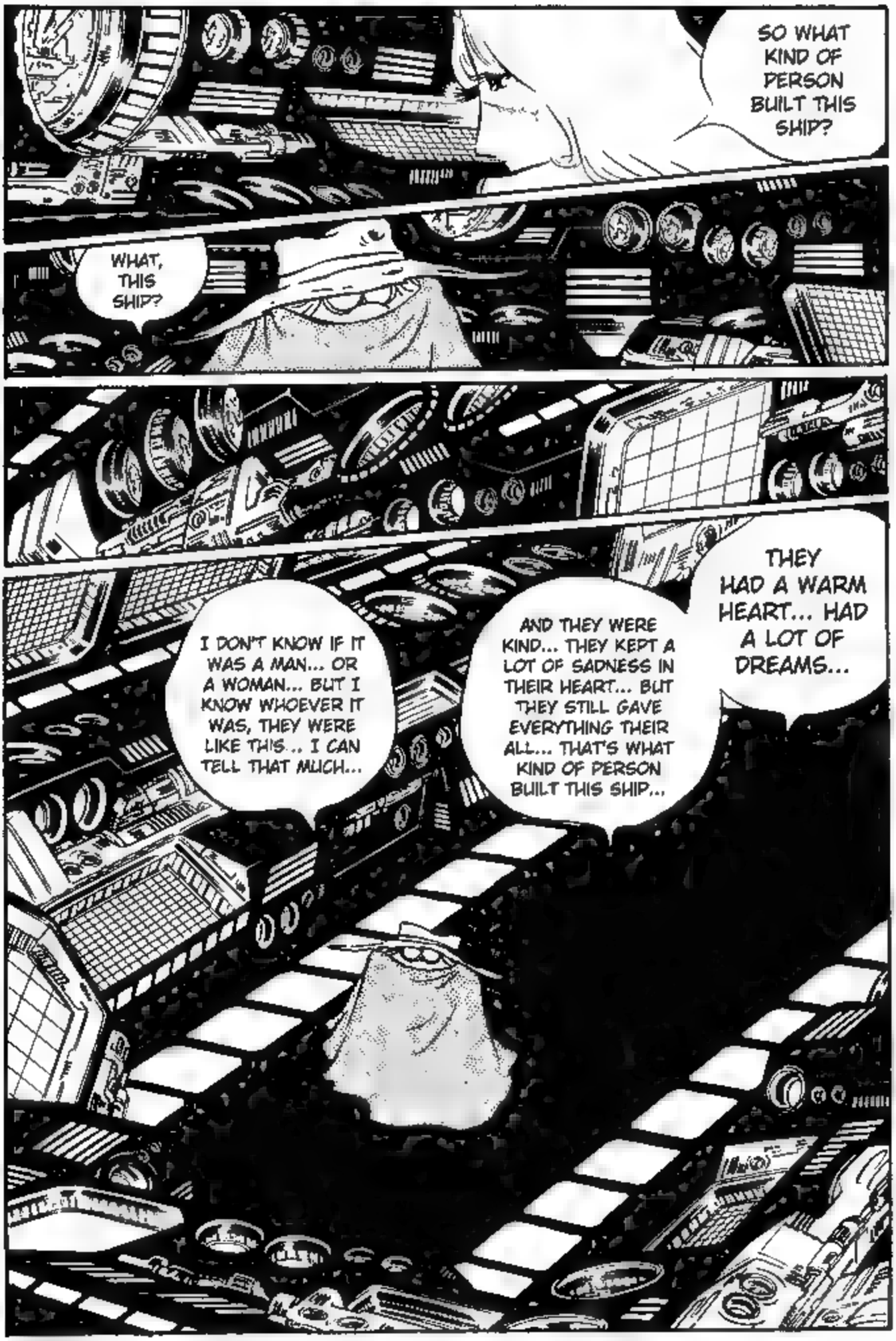


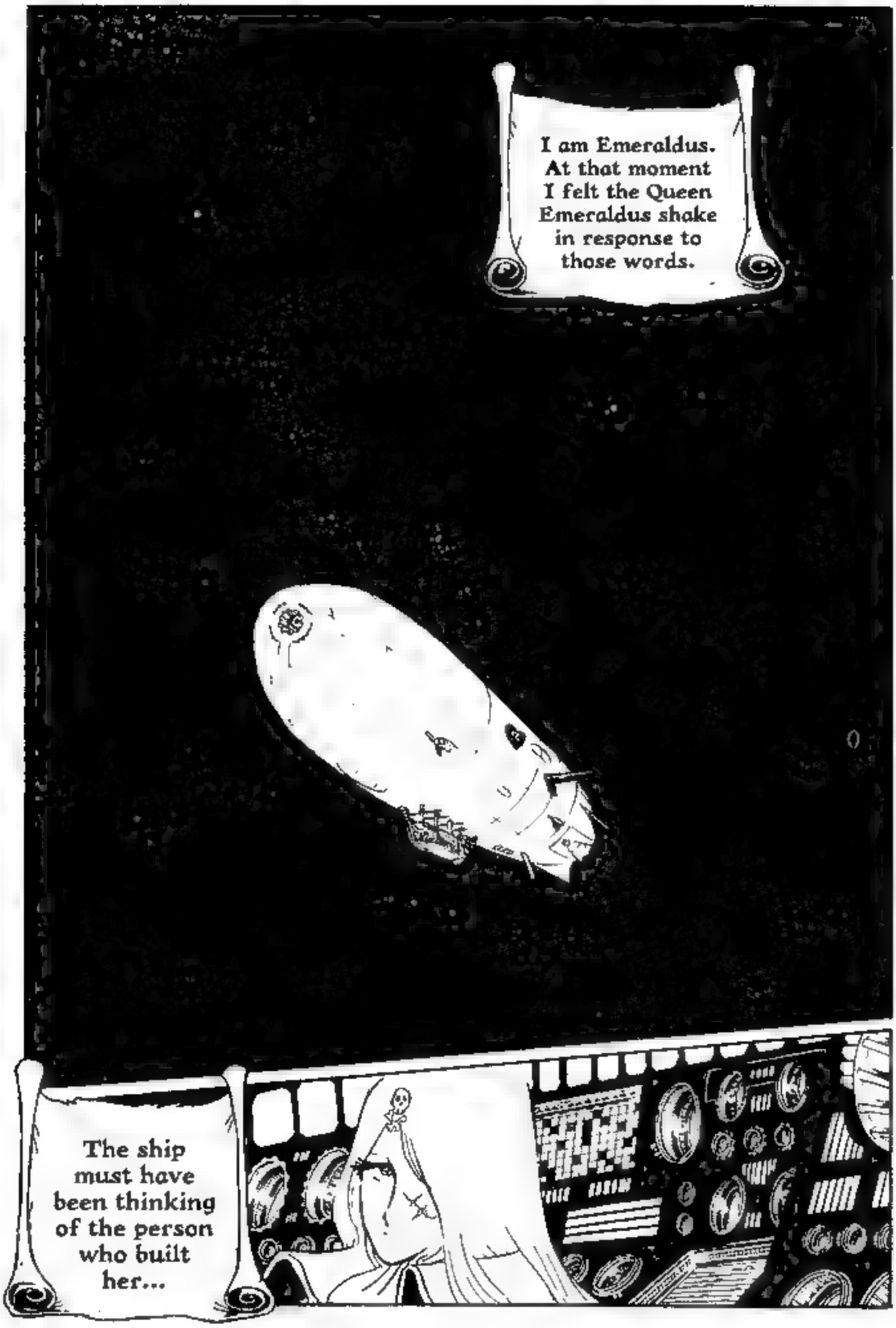
After escaping Zorvac's gravitational field, navigation was smooth and tranquil, as if sailing on a placid lake.



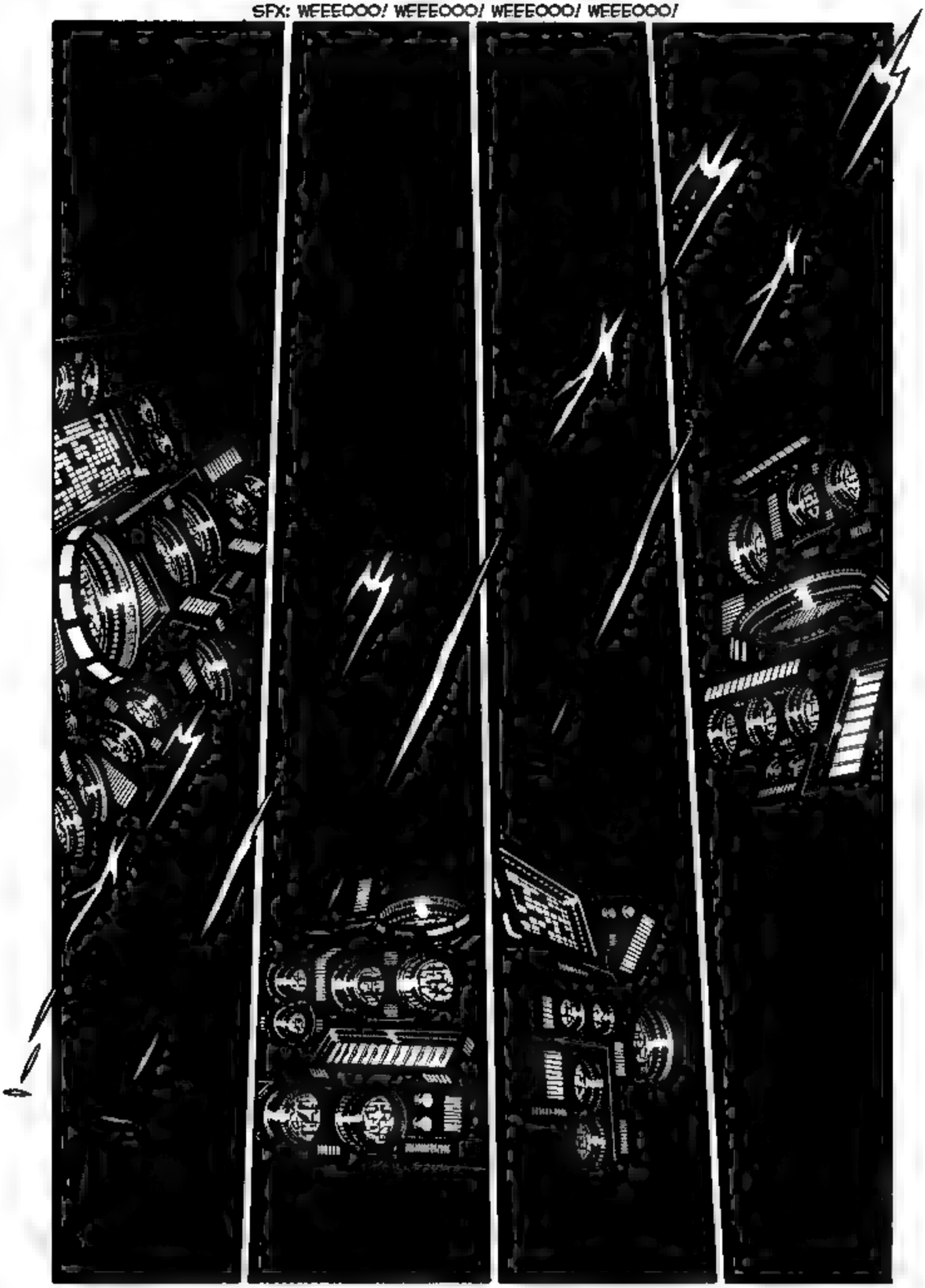
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT SHIPS... YOU CAN TELL ALL THAT AT A GLANCE!!
WHO BUILT THIS SHIP...? WHOEVER DID IT WAS DEFINITELY A GENIUS.

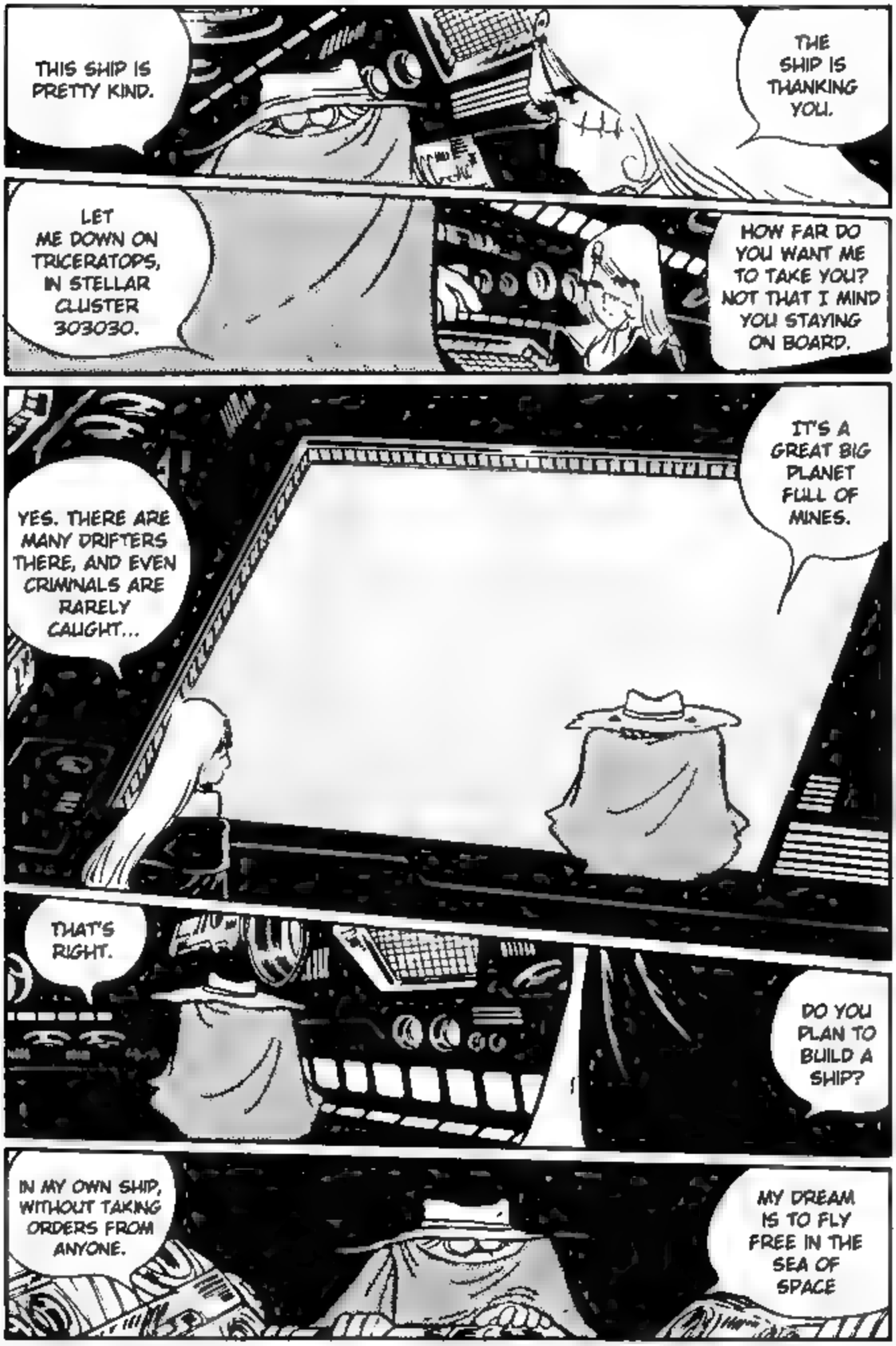

SFX: WEEEOOO/ WEEEOOO!
AND THE SHIP EXPRESSES THE HEART OF THE ONE THAT BUILT IT...
YOU CAN FIGURE OUT A SHIP AT A GLANCE, UNLIKE HUMANS.


SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON BUILT THIS SHIP?
WHAT, THIS SHIP?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A MAN... OR A WOMAN... BUT I KNOW WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY WERE LIKE THIS... I CAN TELL THAT MUCH...
AND THEY WERE KIND... THEY KEPT A LOT OF SADNESS IN THEIR HEART... BUT THEY STILL GAVE EVERYTHING THEIR ALL... THAT'S WHAT KIND OF PERSON BUILT THIS SHIP...
THEY HAD A WARM HEART... HAD A LOT OF DREAMS...

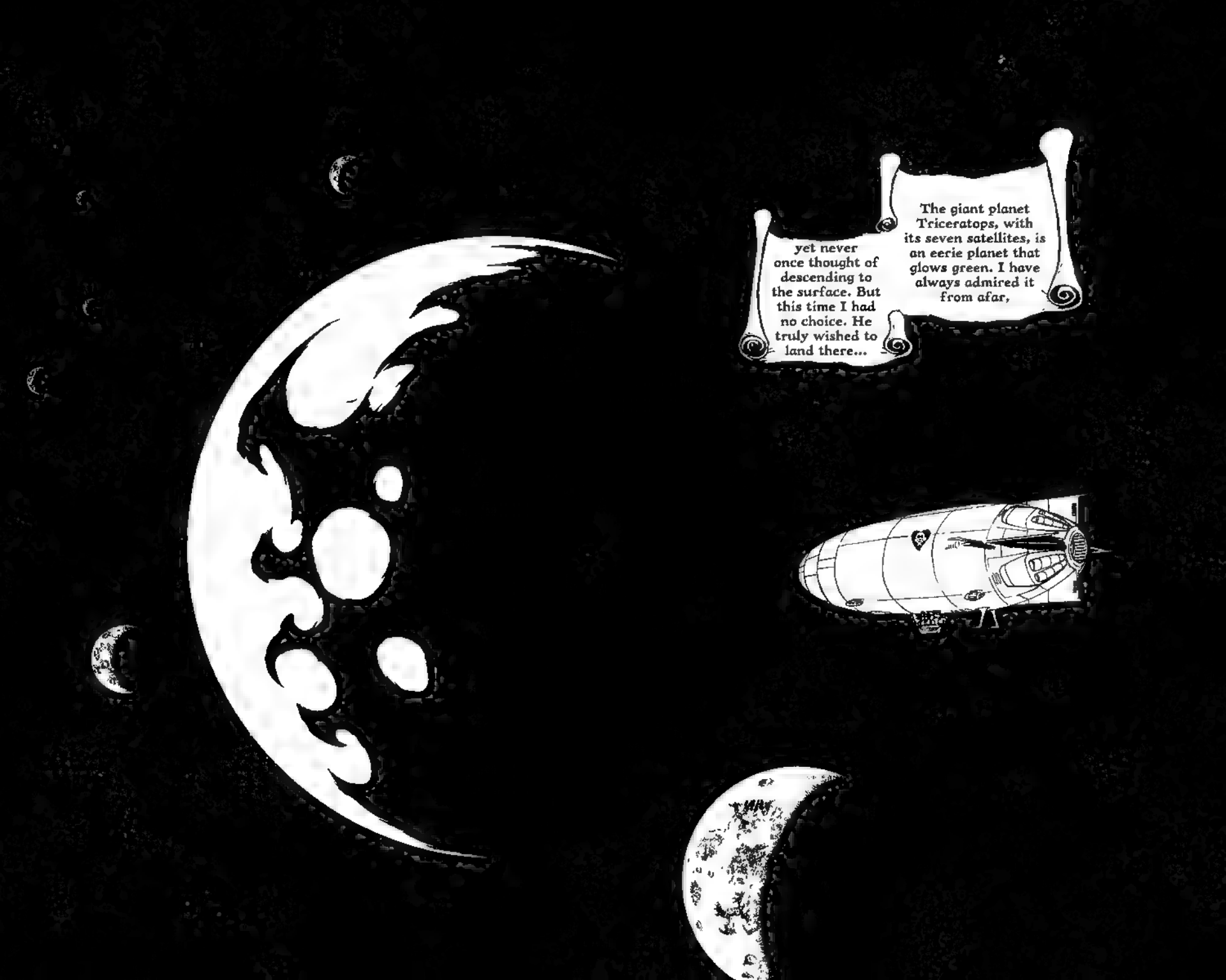

I am Emeraldus. At that moment I felt the Queen Emeraldus shake in response to those words.
The ship must have been thinking of the person who built her...

SFX: WEEEOOO/ WEEEOOO/ WEEEOOO/ WEEEOOO/




THIS SHIP IS PRETTY KIND.
THE SHIP IS THANKING YOU.
LET ME DOWN ON TRICERATOPS, IN STELLAR CLUSTER 303030.
HOW FAR DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU? NOT THAT I MIND YOU STAYING ON BOARD.
YES. THERE ARE MANY DRIFTERS THERE, AND EVEN CRIMINALS ARE RARELY CAUGHT...
IT'S A GREAT BIG PLANET FULL OF MINES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DO YOU PLAN TO BUILD A SHIP?
IN MY OWN SHIP, WITHOUT TAKING ORDERS FROM ANYONE.
MY DREAM IS TO FLY FREE IN THE SEA OF SPACE

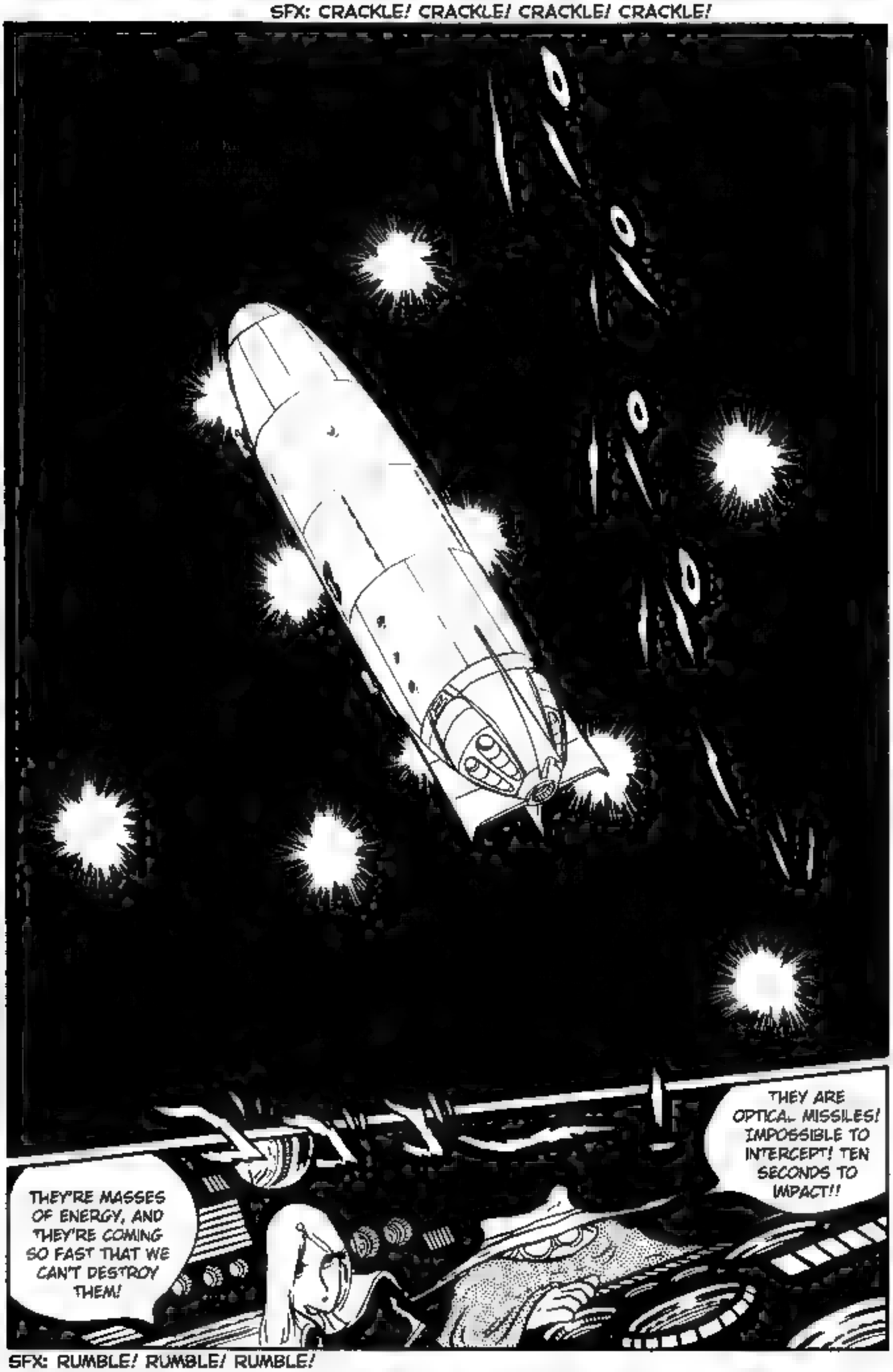
Stellar cluster 303030 contains many planets that are bizarrely rich in mineral resources. For that exact reason, there are countless outlaws, and it's known as one of the most dangerous parts of space...


The giant planet Triceratops, with its seven satellites, is an eerie planet that glows green. I have always admired it from afar,
yet never once thought of descending to the surface. But this time I had no choice. He truly wished to land there...

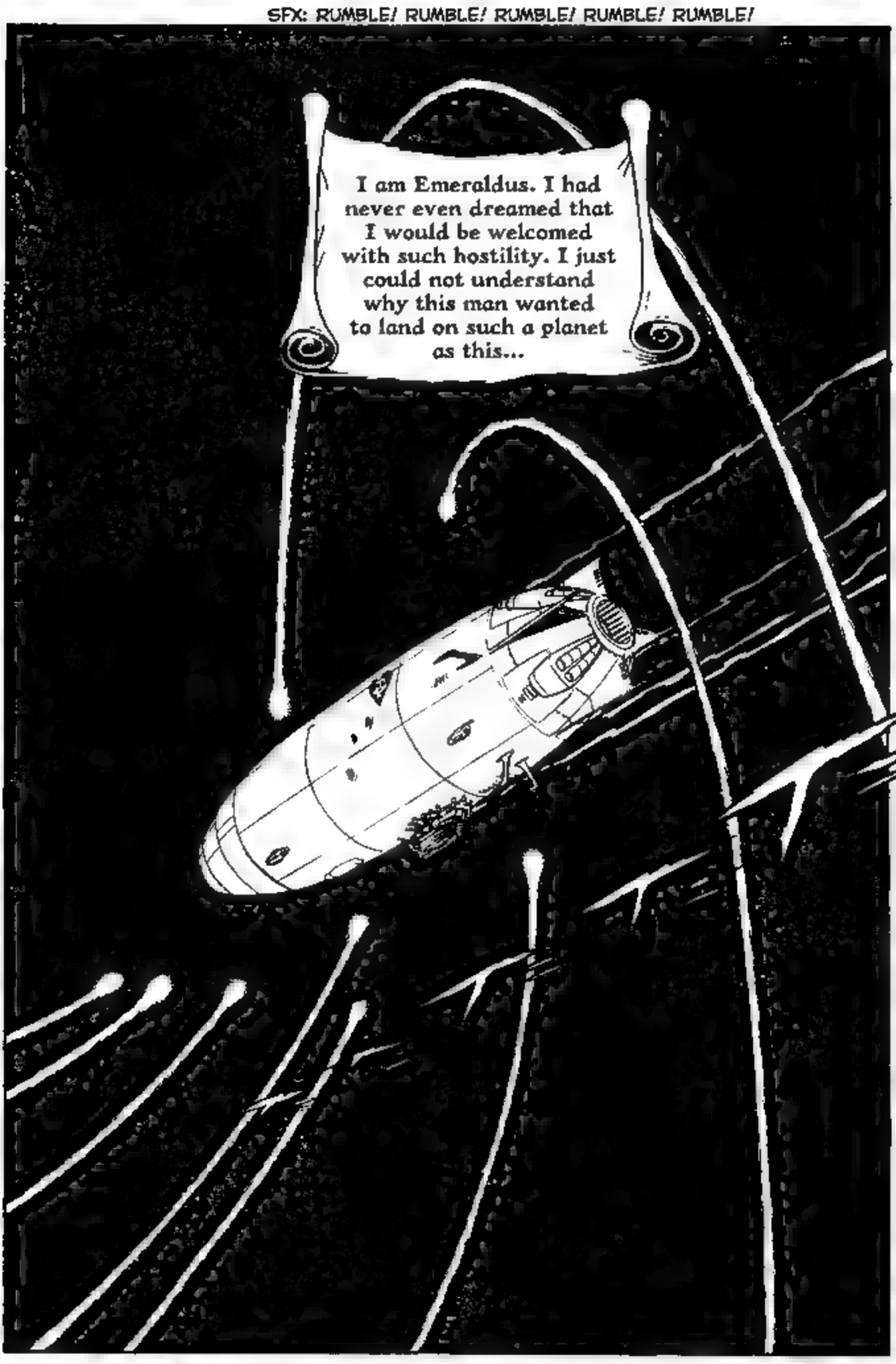
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

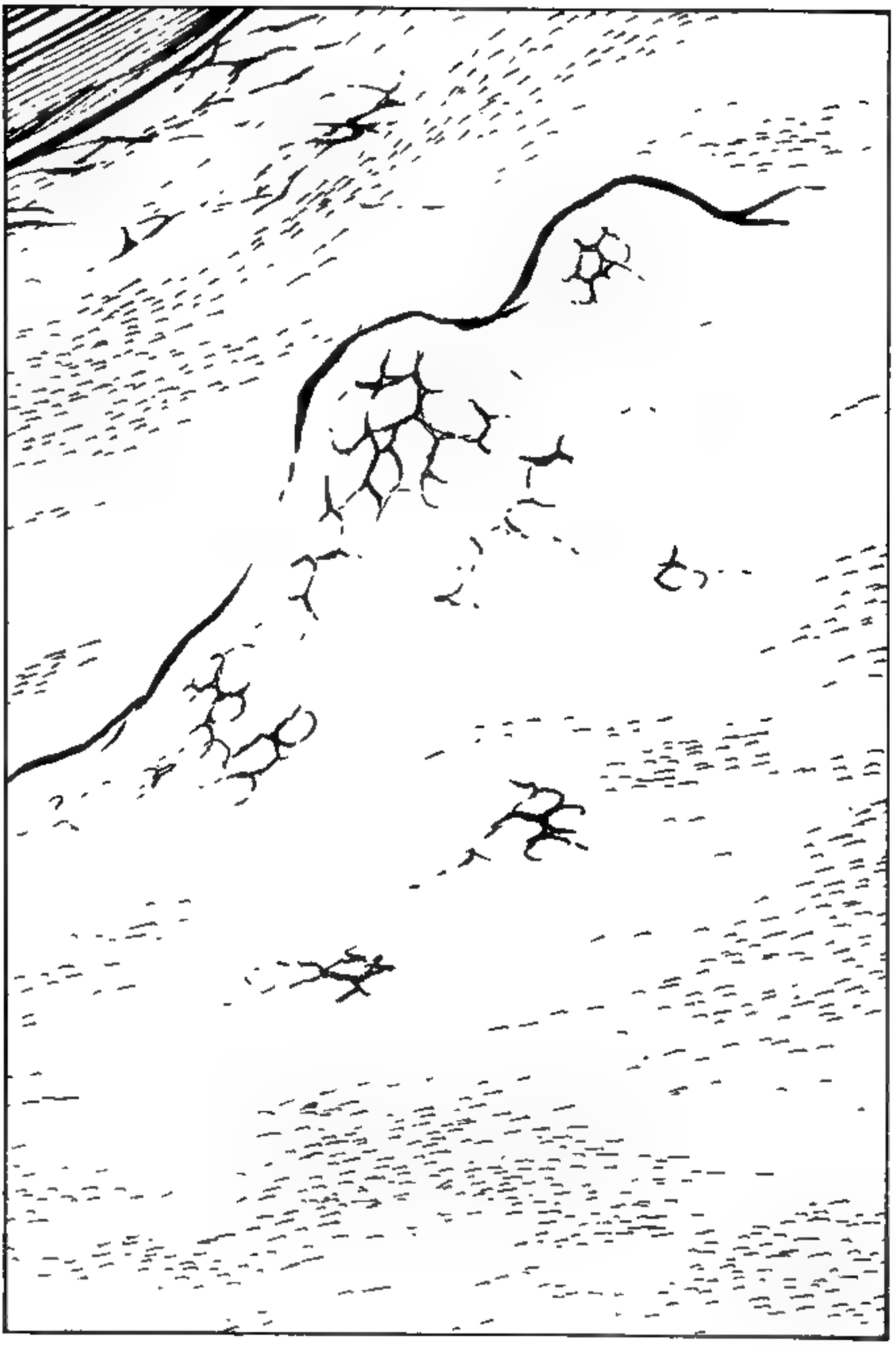
SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
HIGH-SPEED FLYING OBJECTS APPROACHING UPWARD!!
THEY ARE OPTICAL MISSILES! IMPOSSIBLE TO INTERCEPT! TEN SECONDS TO IMPACT!!
SFX: BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
SFX: SWOOOOOOOSH!

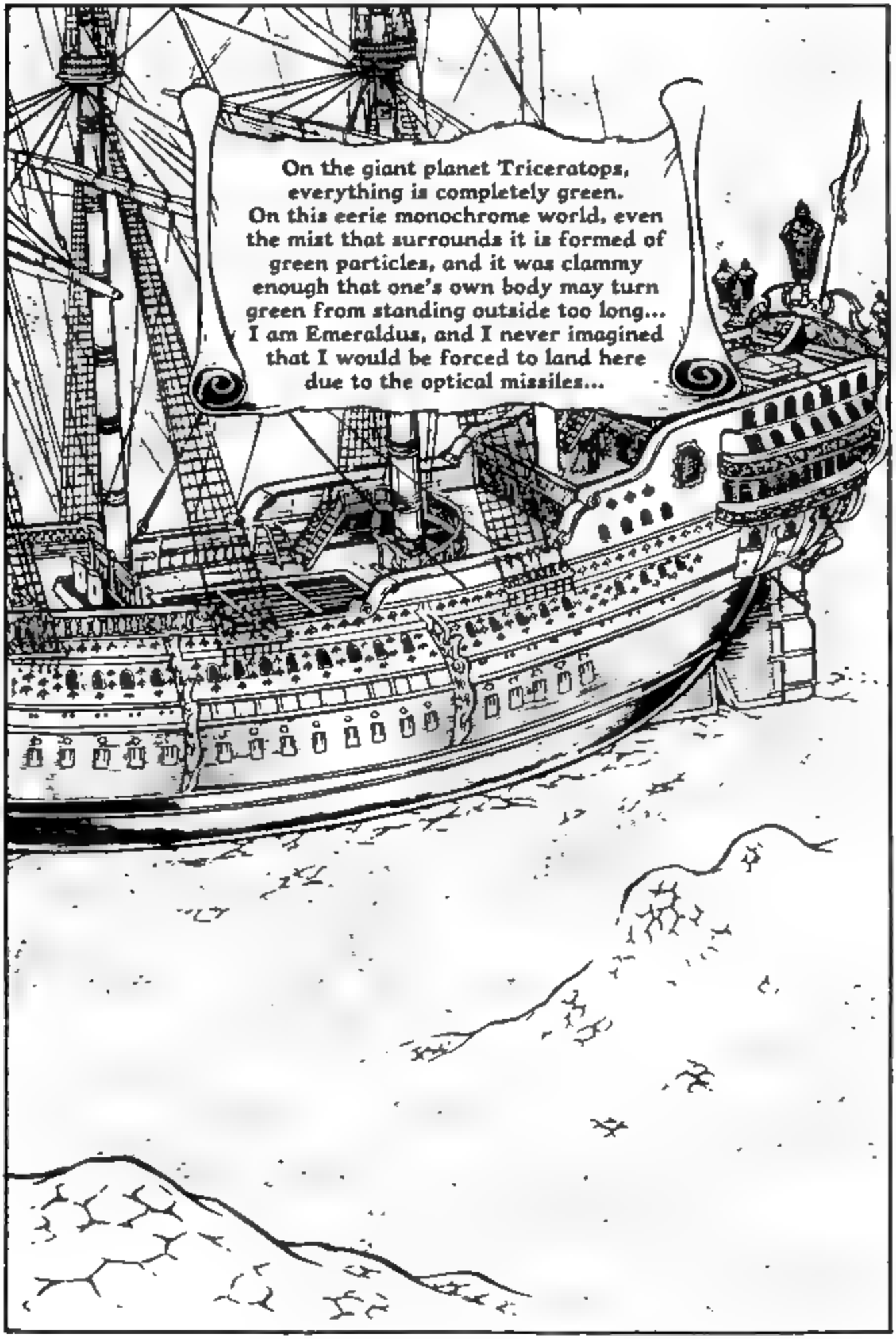
SFX: CRACKLE! CRACKLE! CRACKLE! CRACKLE!


THEY'RE MASSES OF ENERGY, AND THEY'RE COMING SO FAST THAT WE CAN'T DESTROY THEM!
THEY ARE OPTICAL MISSILES! IMPOSSIBLE TO INTERCEPT! TEN SECONDS TO IMPACT!!

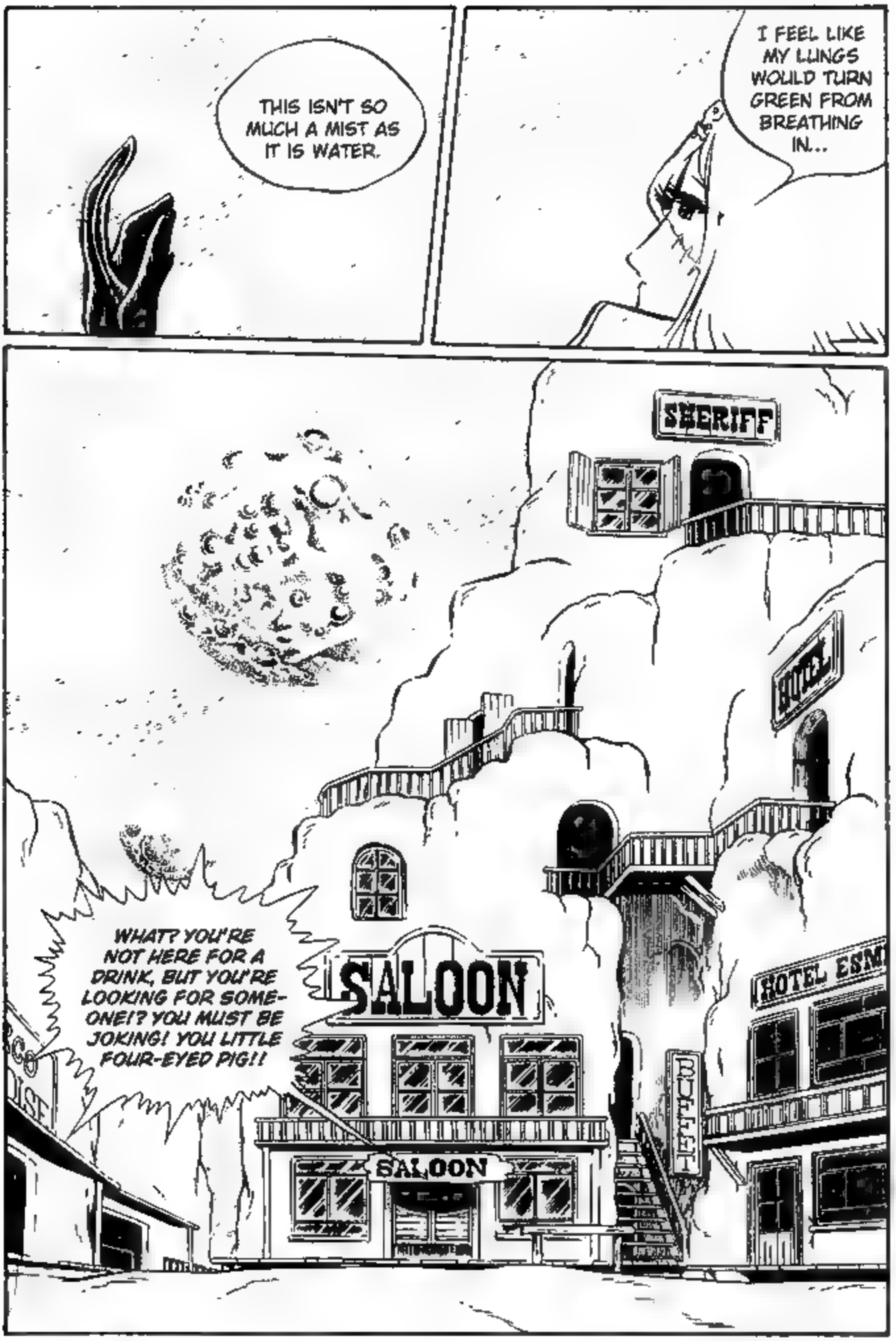
SFX: RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!


SFX: RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!
I am Emeraldus. I had never even dreamed that I would be welcomed with such hostility. I just could not understand why this man wanted to land on such a planet as this...

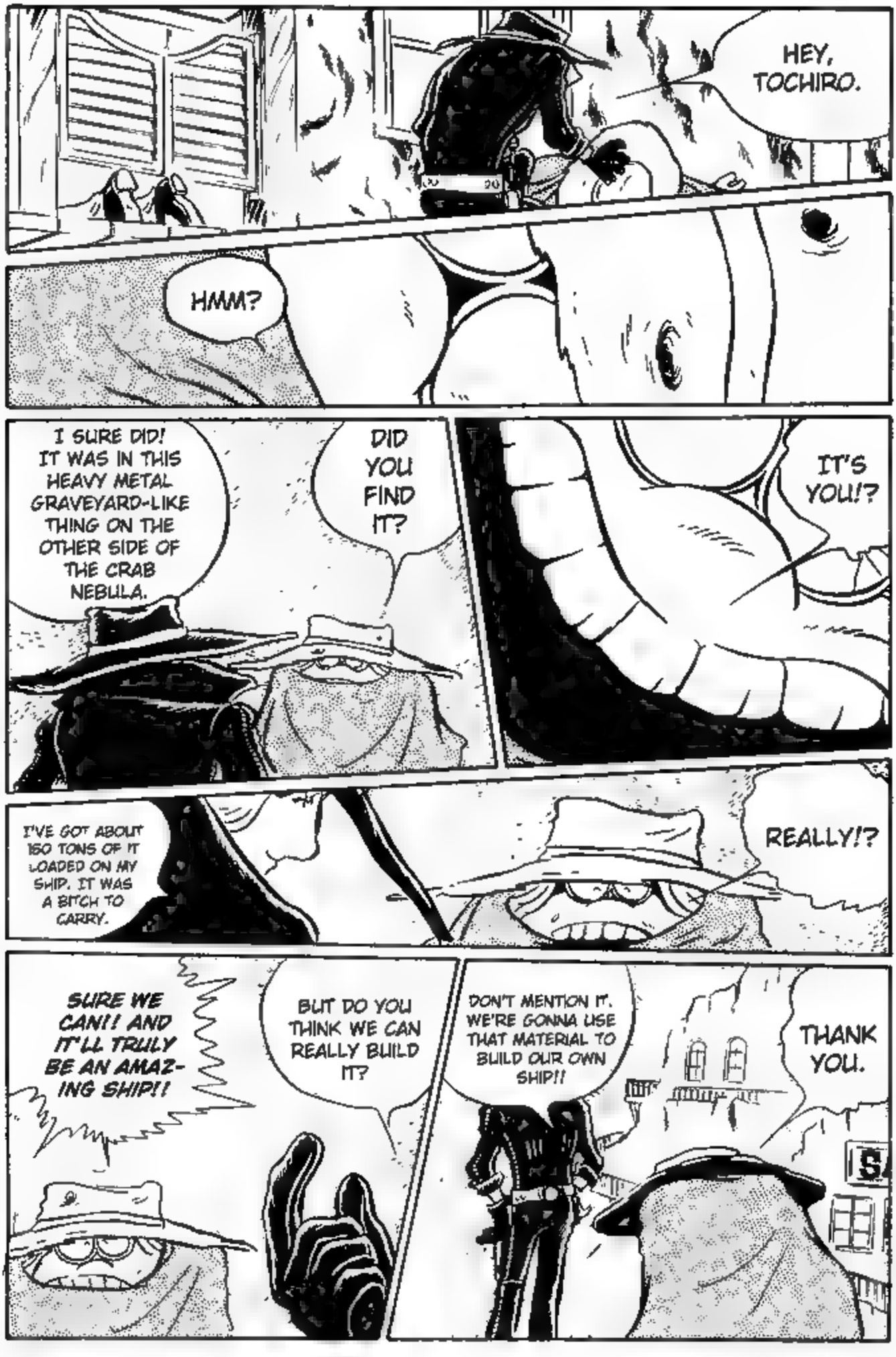



On the giant planet Triceratops, everything is completely green. On this eerie monochrome world, even the mist that surrounds it is formed of green particles, and it was clammy enough that one's own body may turn green from standing outside too long... I am Emeraldus, and I never imagined that I would be forced to land here due to the optical missiles...

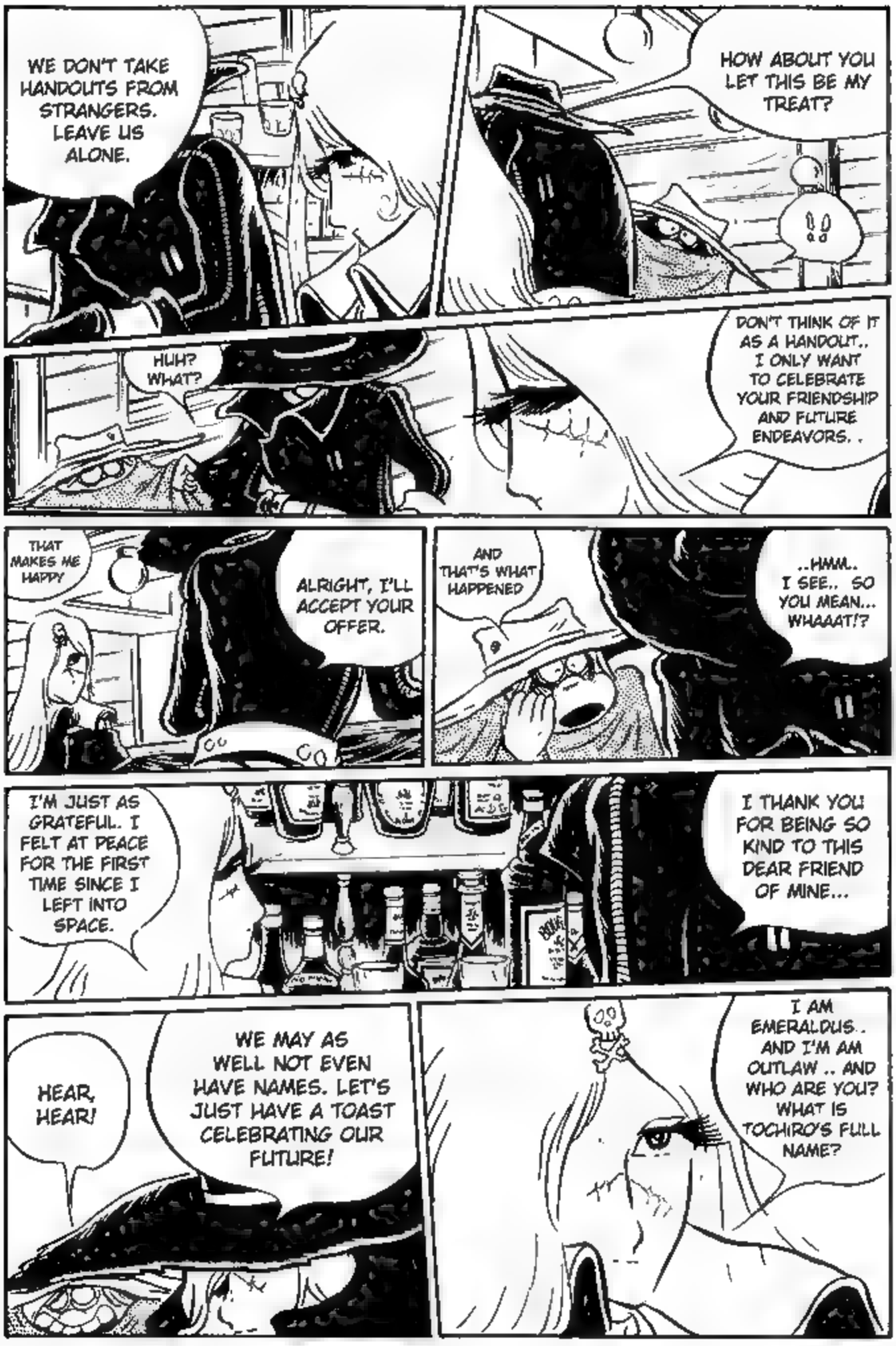
1
IS THAT MAN FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN? HE DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER HE WAS DONE EATING... NOT THAT I'M SCARED, BUT I NEED TO DESTROY THE OPTICAL MISSILE LAUNCHER...
The man jumped out of the ship, leaving his eternal memory behind. I did not know what he wanted to do here. I could have ignored the missiles and flown away... But for whatever reason, I was drawn to that man, and decided to watch and see what would happen...


THIS ISN'T SO MUCH A MIST AS IT IS WATER.
I FEEL LIKE MY LUNGS WOULD TURN GREEN FROM BREATHING IN...
SHERIFF
HOTEL
SALOON
HOTEL ESM
BULLET
SALOON
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR A DRINK, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE!? YOU MUST BE JOKING! YOU LITTLE FOUR-EYED PIG!!

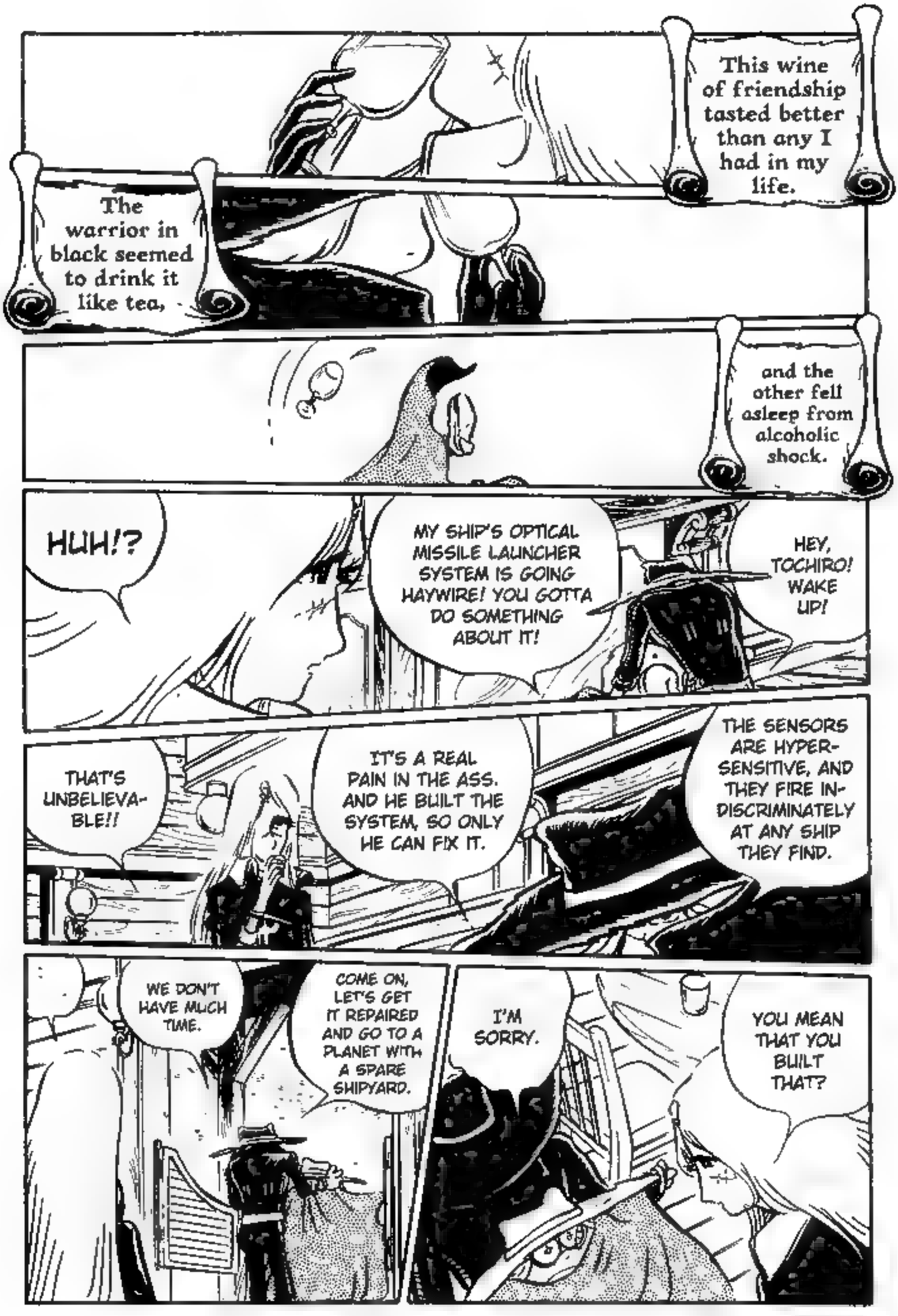
SFX: POOF!
SFX: CRUSH! / CRACK! / STOMP!
GO FIND A TROUGH SOMEWHERE!!
HEY, YOU, OVER THERE.
WHADDYA WANT?
DID YOU CALL MY FRIEND A LITTLE FOUR-EYED PIG?
YEAH, I DID. IF YOU DIDN'T CATCH IT THE FIRST TIME, WHY DON'T I REPEAT IT?
I SEE. SO YOU DID SAY IT.
WHAT THE HELL? YOU WANT A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
SFX: KA-POW!
YOU BASTARD!


HEY, TOCHIRO.
HMM?
I SURE DID! IT WAS IN THIS HEAVY METAL GRAVEYARD-LIKE THING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CRAB NEBULA.
DID YOU FIND IT?
IT'S YOU!?
I'VE GOT ABOUT 150 TONS OF IT LOADED ON MY SHIP. IT WAS A BITCH TO CARRY.
REALLY!?
SURE WE CAN!! AND IT'LL TRULY BE AN AMAZ-ING SHIP!!
BUT DO YOU THINK WE CAN REALLY BUILD IT?
DON'T MENTION IT. WE'RE GONNA USE THAT MATERIAL TO BUILD OUR OWN SHIP!!
THANK YOU.

ALL WE NEED IS THE ALLOY!! ..AND YOU HAVE 150 TONS OF IT!! IF WE CAN'T BUILD THAT SHIP NOW, OUR LIVES WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!!
WE CAN BUILD A SHIP THAT WE CAN TRAVEL ON FOREVER, EVEN TO THE OUTER REACHES OF SPACE!!
LET'S HAVE A DRINK TO OUR REUNION!!
I THINK FOOD TAKES PRIORITY OVER DRINK, BUT...
SO WHY DON'T WE GET A DRINK TO CELEBRATE, TOCHIRO?
YEAH, I HAVE MONEY. DON'T WORRY.
HEY, YOU GOT MONEY?
I HOPE YOU HAVE THE MONEY FOR IT, SIR.
GIMME SOME BOOZE!

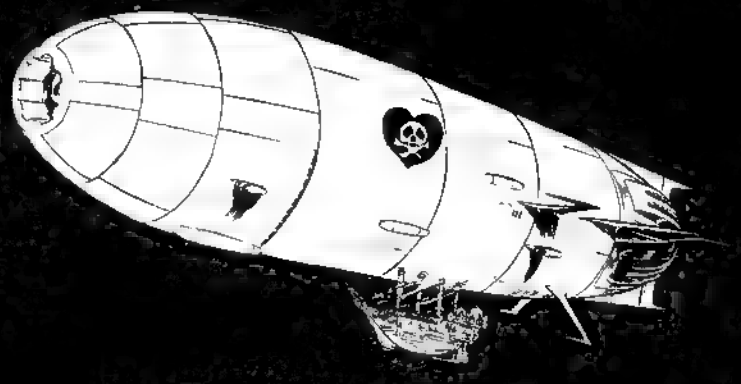

WE DON'T TAKE HANDOUTS FROM STRANGERS. LEAVE US ALONE.
HOW ABOUT YOU LET THIS BE MY TREAT?
HUH? WHAT?
DON'T THINK OF IT AS A HANDOUT.. I ONLY WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS. .
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
ALRIGHT, I'LL ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
..HMM.. I SEE.. SO YOU MEAN... WHAAAT!?
I'M JUST AS GRATEFUL. I FELT AT PEACE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I LEFT INTO SPACE.
I THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND TO THIS DEAR FRIEND OF MINE...
HEAR, HEAR!
WE MAY AS WELL NOT EVEN HAVE NAMES. LET'S JUST HAVE A TOAST CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE!
I AM EMERALDUS.. AND I'M AM OUTLAW .. AND WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS TOCHIRO'S FULL NAME?

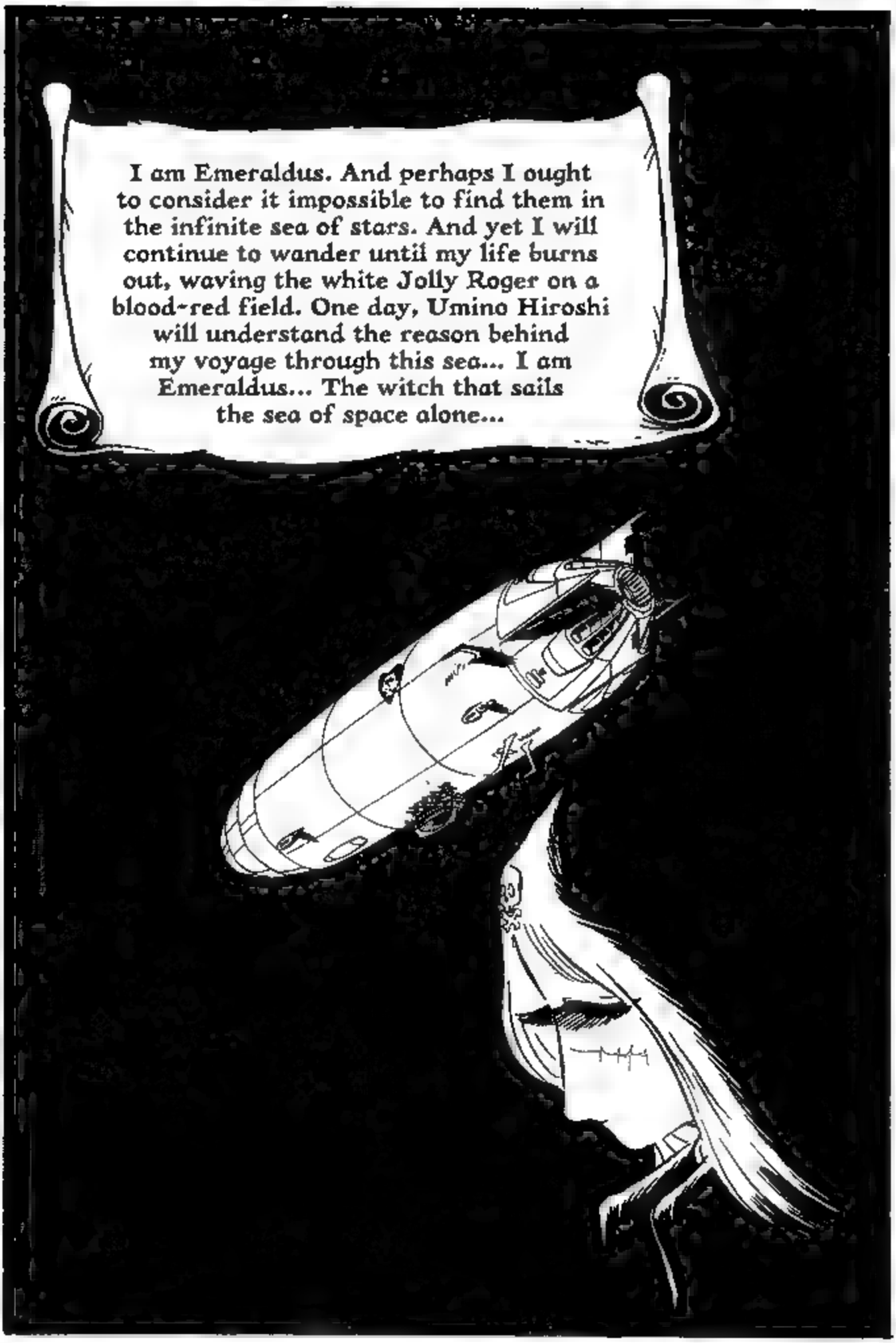
SFX: CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!
CHEERS!!
ALL FUTURE ENDEAVORS ...
AND, LIKE...
THEN, TO FRIENDSHIP AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS ...


The warrior in black seemed to drink it like tea,
This wine of friendship tasted better than any I had in my life.
and the other fell asleep from alcoholic shock.
HUH!?
MY SHIP'S OPTICAL MISSILE LAUNCHER SYSTEM IS GOING HAYWIRE! YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
HEY, TOCHIRO! WAKE UP!
THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!!
IT'S A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS. AND HE BUILT THE SYSTEM, SO ONLY HE CAN FIX IT.
THE SENSORS ARE HYPERSENSITIVE, AND THEY FIRE INDISCRIMINATELY AT ANY SHIP THEY FIND.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
COME ON, LET'S GET IT REPAIRED AND GO TO A PLANET WITH A SPARE SHIPYARD.
I'M SORRY.
YOU MEAN THAT YOU BUILT THAT?

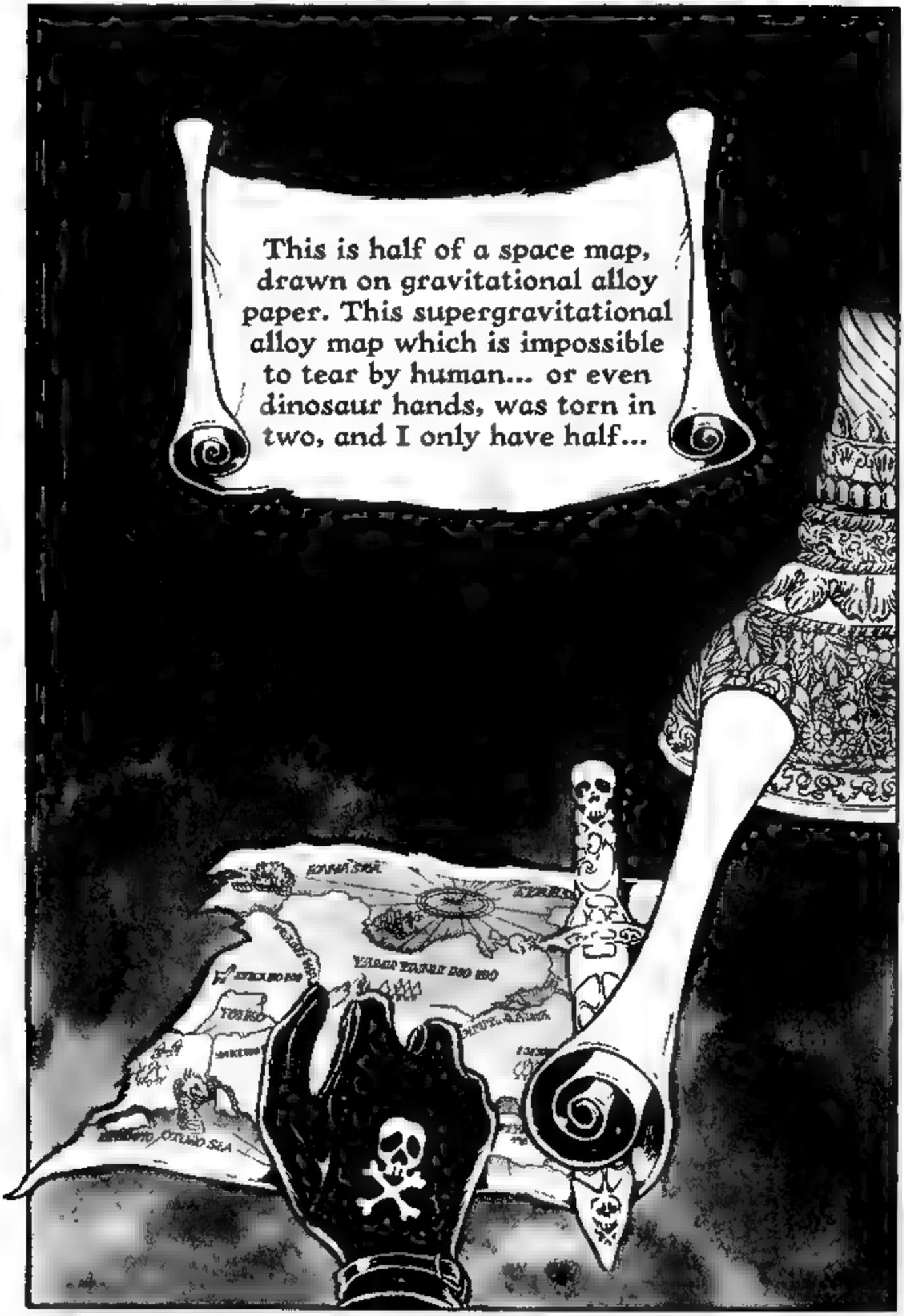
I do not know where Tochiro and the warrior in black went to... And I still regret leaving Triceratops without finding that out...
SALOON

As I flew away from Triceratops, it looked like a beautiful and peaceful planet, entirely unlike my initial impressions. I even felt that the green mist served to encourage men to live free, staking their lives for their dreams.



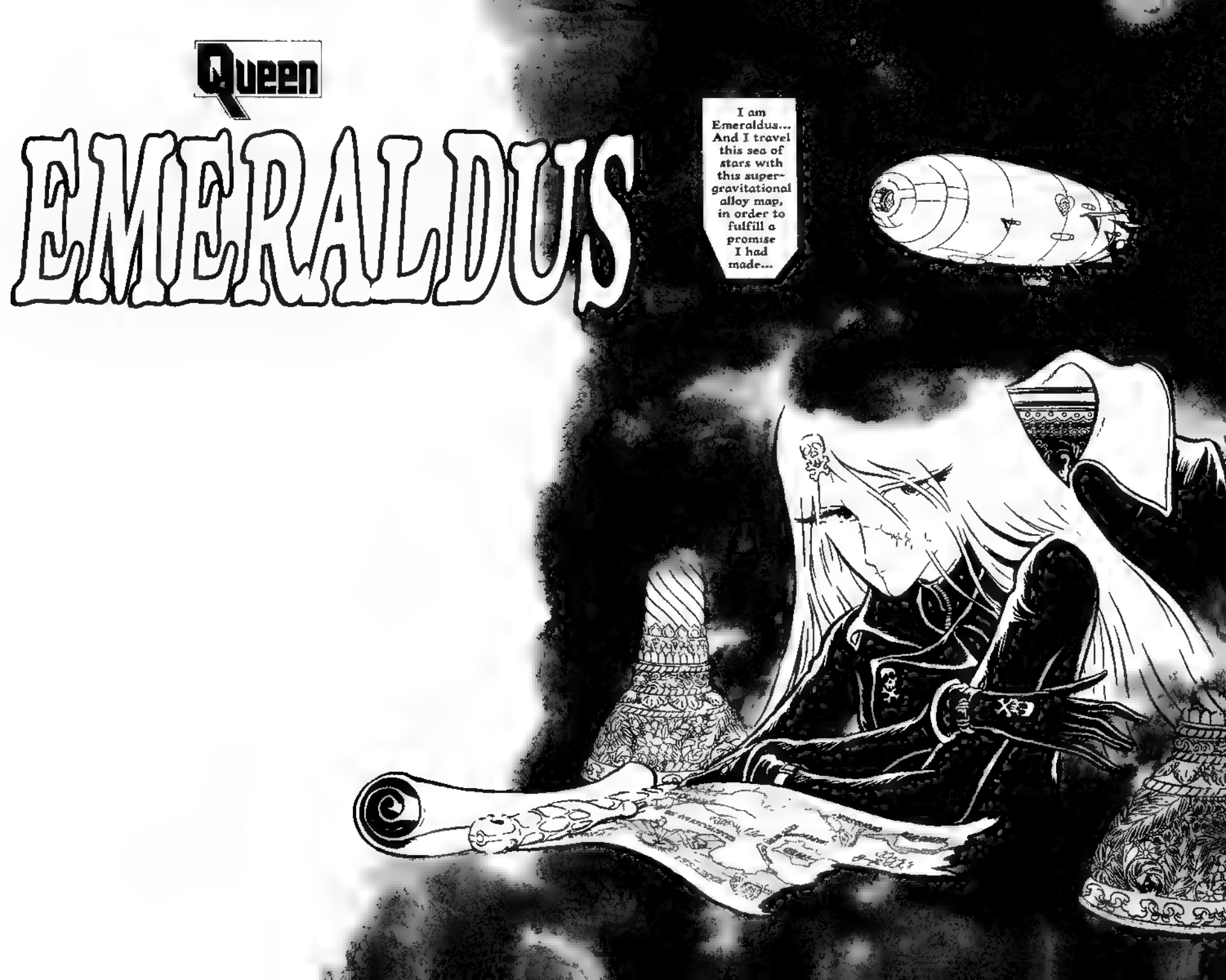

I am Emeraldus. And perhaps I ought to consider it impossible to find them in the infinite sea of stars. And yet I will continue to wander until my life burns out, waving the white Jolly Roger on a blood-red field. One day, Umino Hiroshi will understand the reason behind my voyage through this sea... I am Emeraldus... The witch that sails the sea of space alone...

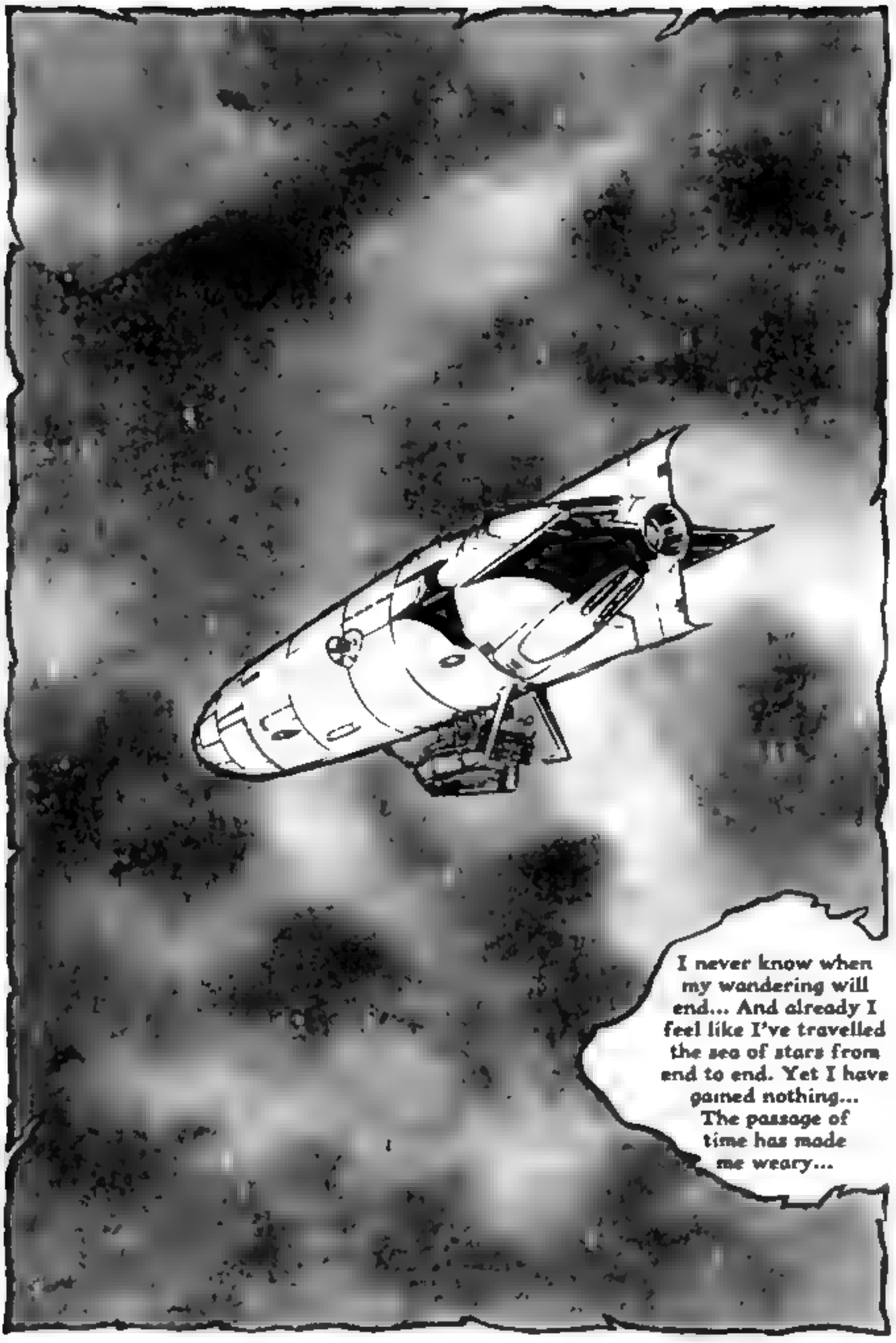
Fin


This is half of a space map, drawn on gravitational alloy paper. This supergravitational alloy map which is impossible to tear by human... or even dinosaur hands, was torn in two, and I only have half...

Queen

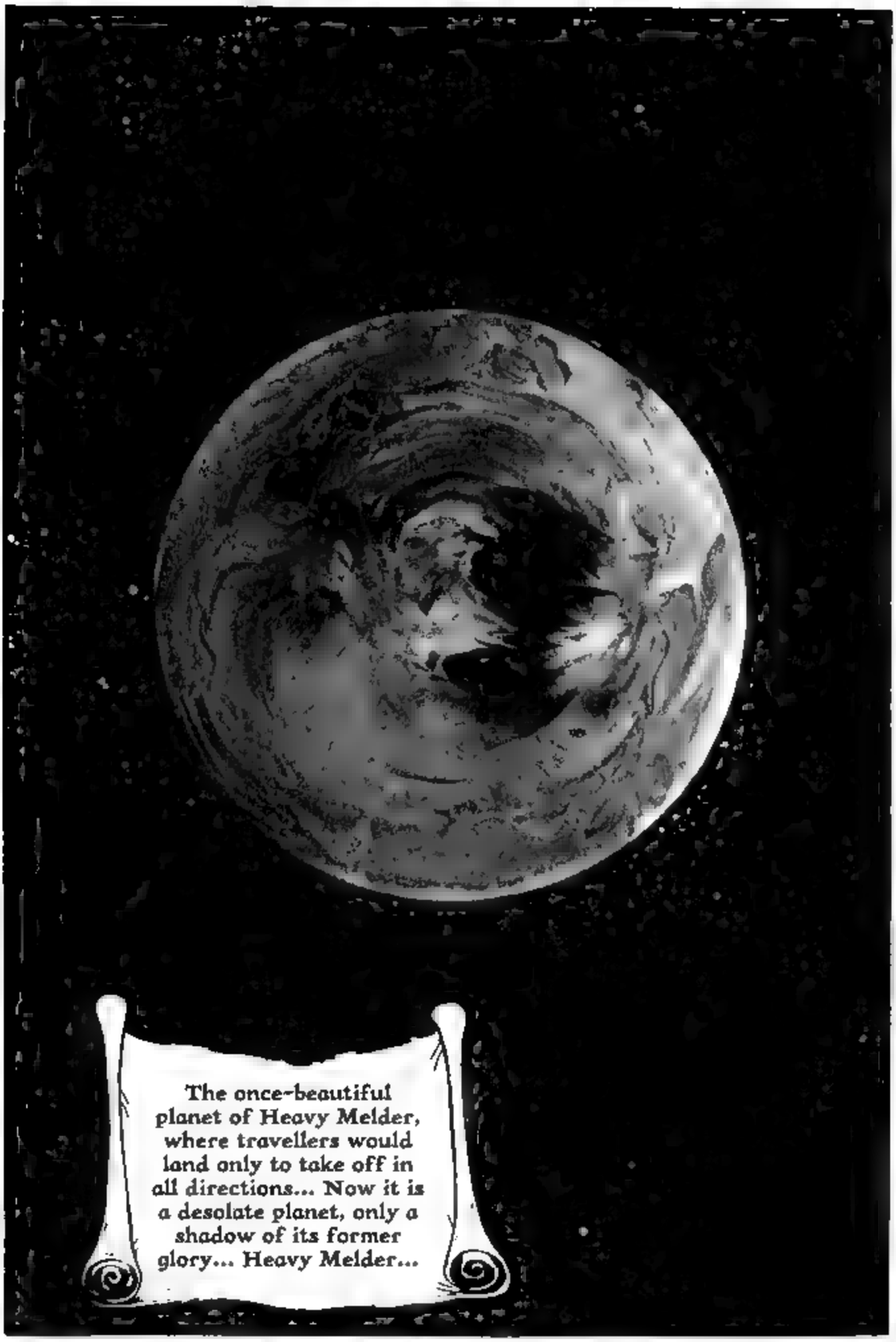
EMERALDUS


I am Emeraldus... And I travel this sea of stars with this super-gravitational alloy map, in order to fulfill a promise I had made...

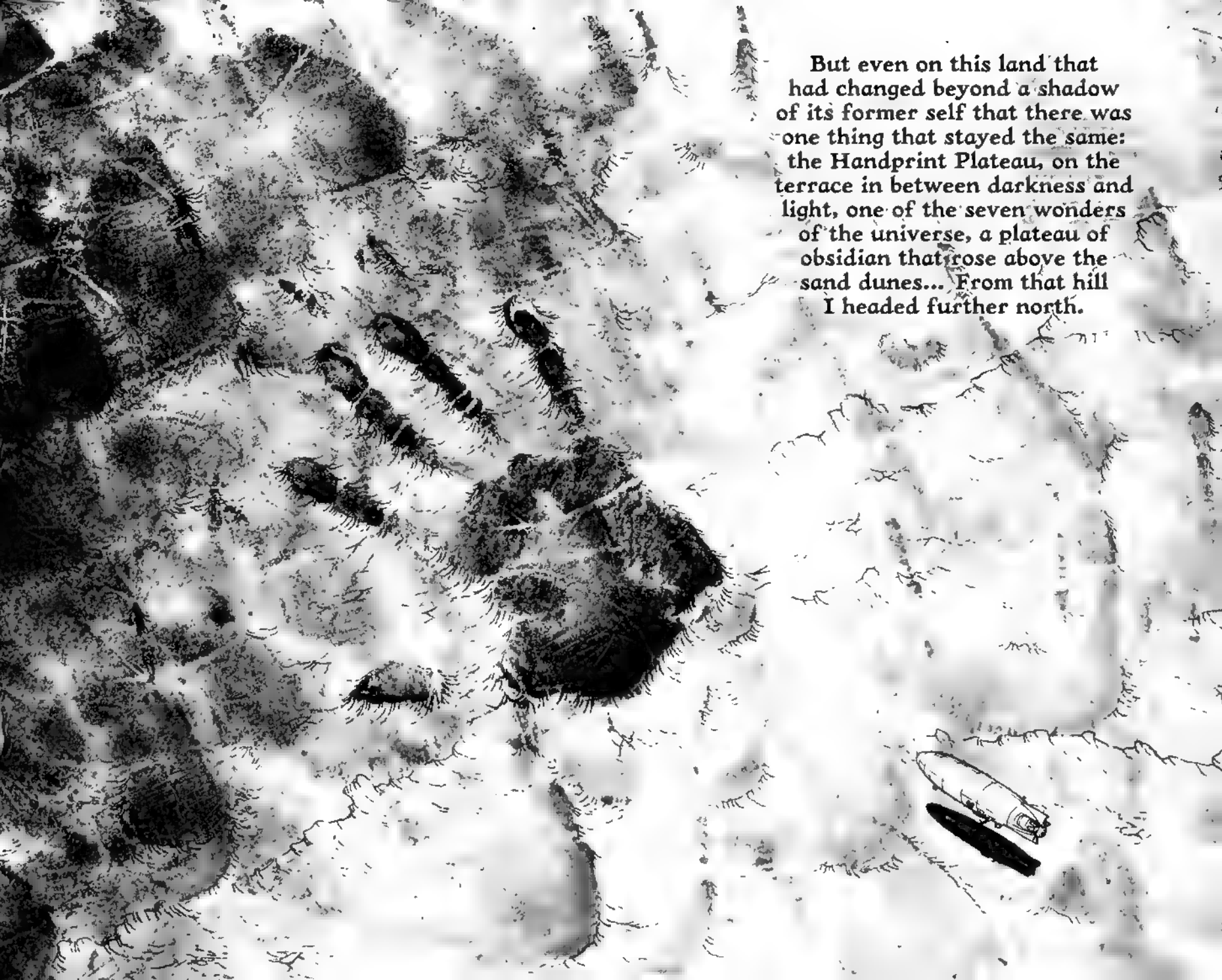

I never know when my wandering will end... And already I feel like I've travelled the sea of stars from end to end. Yet I have gained nothing... The passage of time has made me weary...

ALL I HAVE IN MY HANDS ARE A DAGGER WITH A GOLD SKULL ON THE SCABBARD... AND HALF OF THIS GRAVITATIONAL ALLOY MAP.
THE SOLID TEKTITE BLADE WAS BROKEN IN TWO, PROOF THAT IT HAD BEEN STRUCK BY A TERRIBLE FORCE...
ONLY TWICE WAS IT REMOVED FROM MY BREAST... AND IT ENDED UP LEAVING WITH HIM...
LONG AGO... I WOULD KEEP THIS DAGGER AT MY BREAST...
I would re-encounter the dagger near the Triple Star of Samarkand, marking the site of a bloody battle...

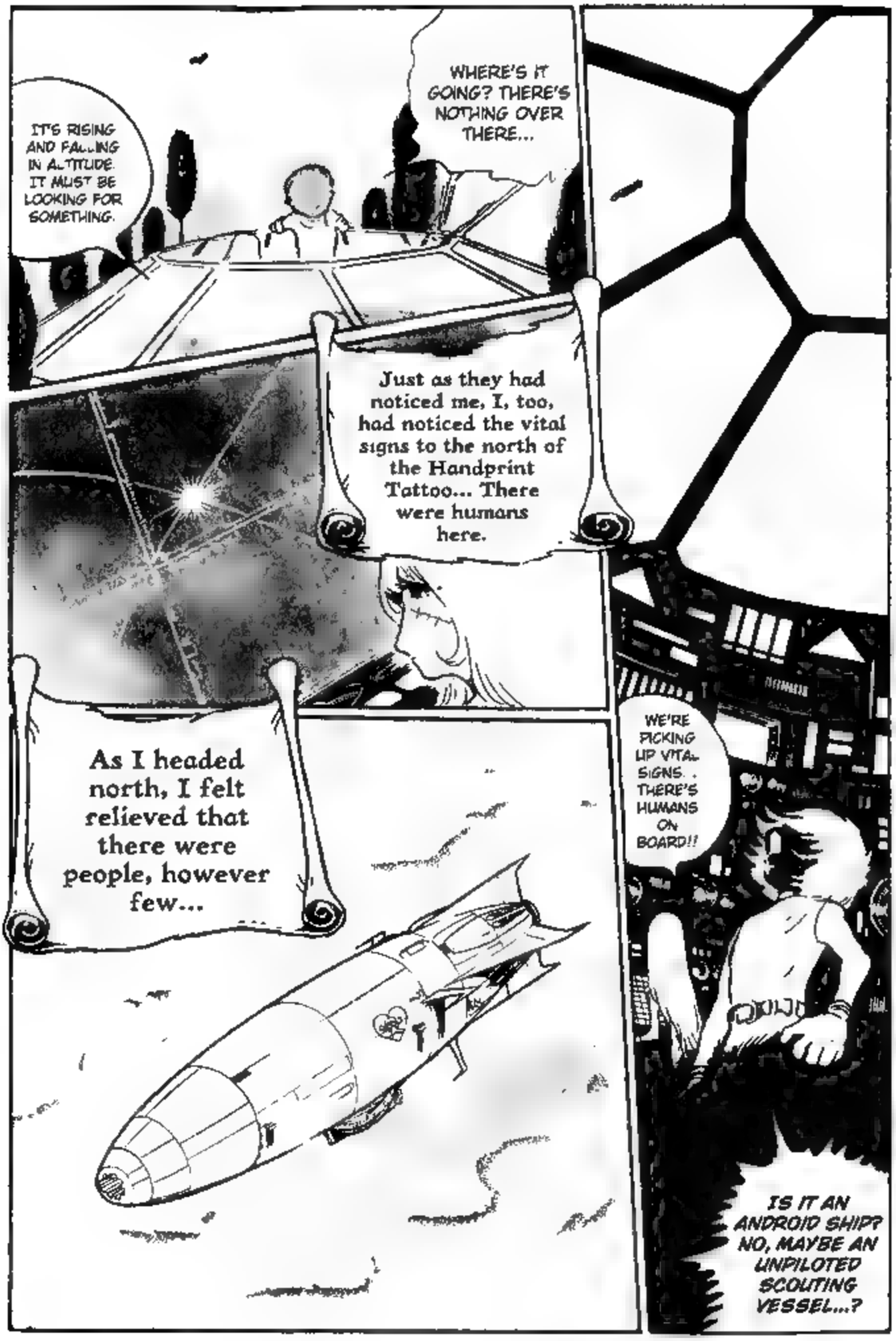
I WAS GROWING TIRED... SO I SET COURSE TO THE PLANET HEAVY MELDER... YES, THE PLACE WHERE I RECALL YIELDING THE DAGGER TO THAT MAN... THE PLANET HEAVY MELDER...
HEAVY MELDER... LONG AGO, IT WAS A JUNCTION ON THE RAILWAY... A PLANET OF PIONEERS. BUT THIS WAS THE PAST...
EVEN THE QUEEN EMERALDUS AGREED WITH MY IDEA... FOR SHE WAS ALSO TIRED.

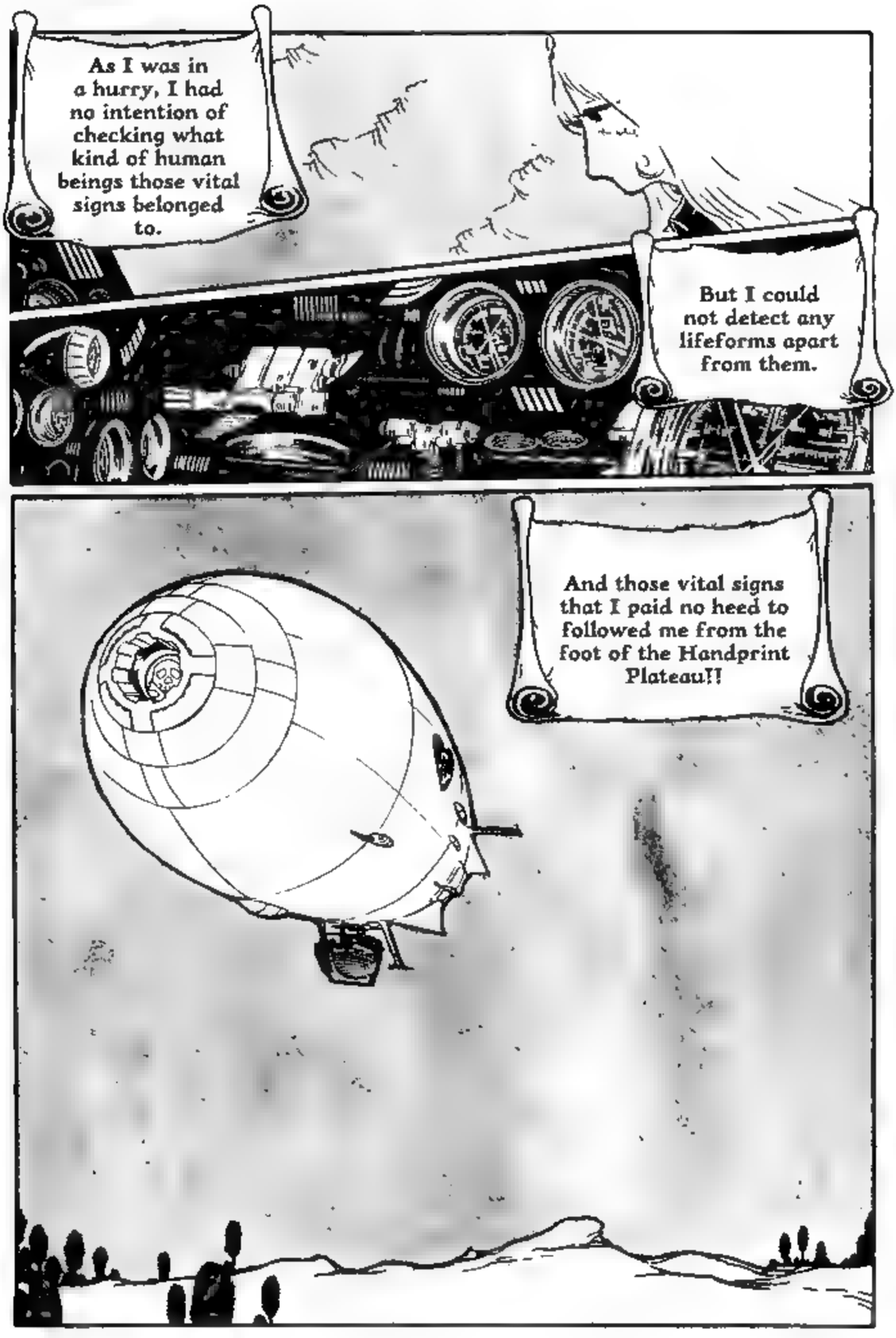

The once-beautiful planet of Heavy Melder, where travellers would land only to take off in all directions... Now it is a desolate planet, only a shadow of its former glory... Heavy Melder...

Heavy Melder is a colony planet now in ruins, eroded such that no trace of human presence remains... And yet it was a place that drew me in with my memories of it...

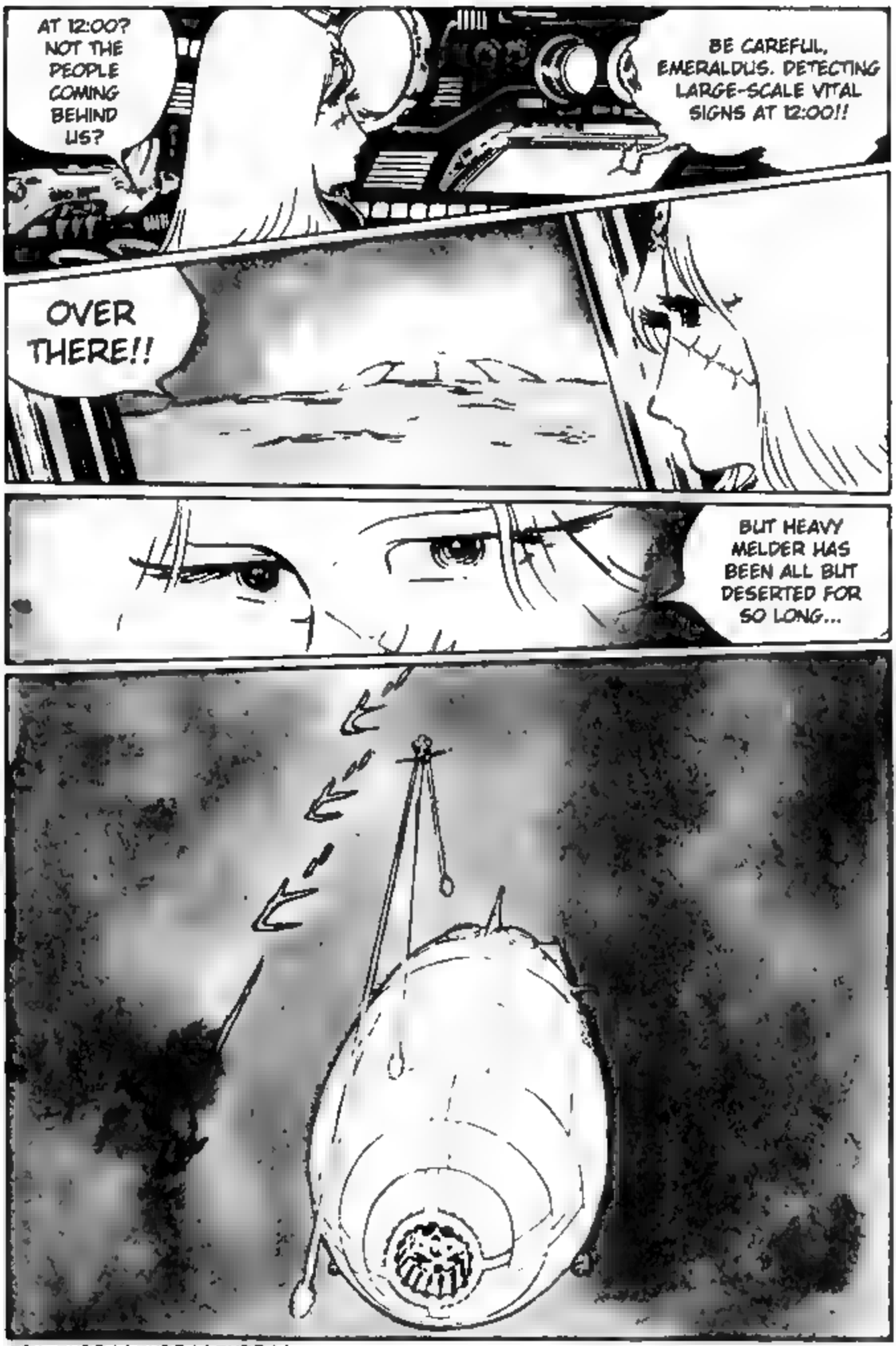

But even on this land that had changed beyond a shadow of its former self that there was one thing that stayed the same: the Handprint Plateau, on the terrace in between darkness and light, one of the seven wonders of the universe, a plateau of obsidian that rose above the sand dunes... From that hill I headed further north.

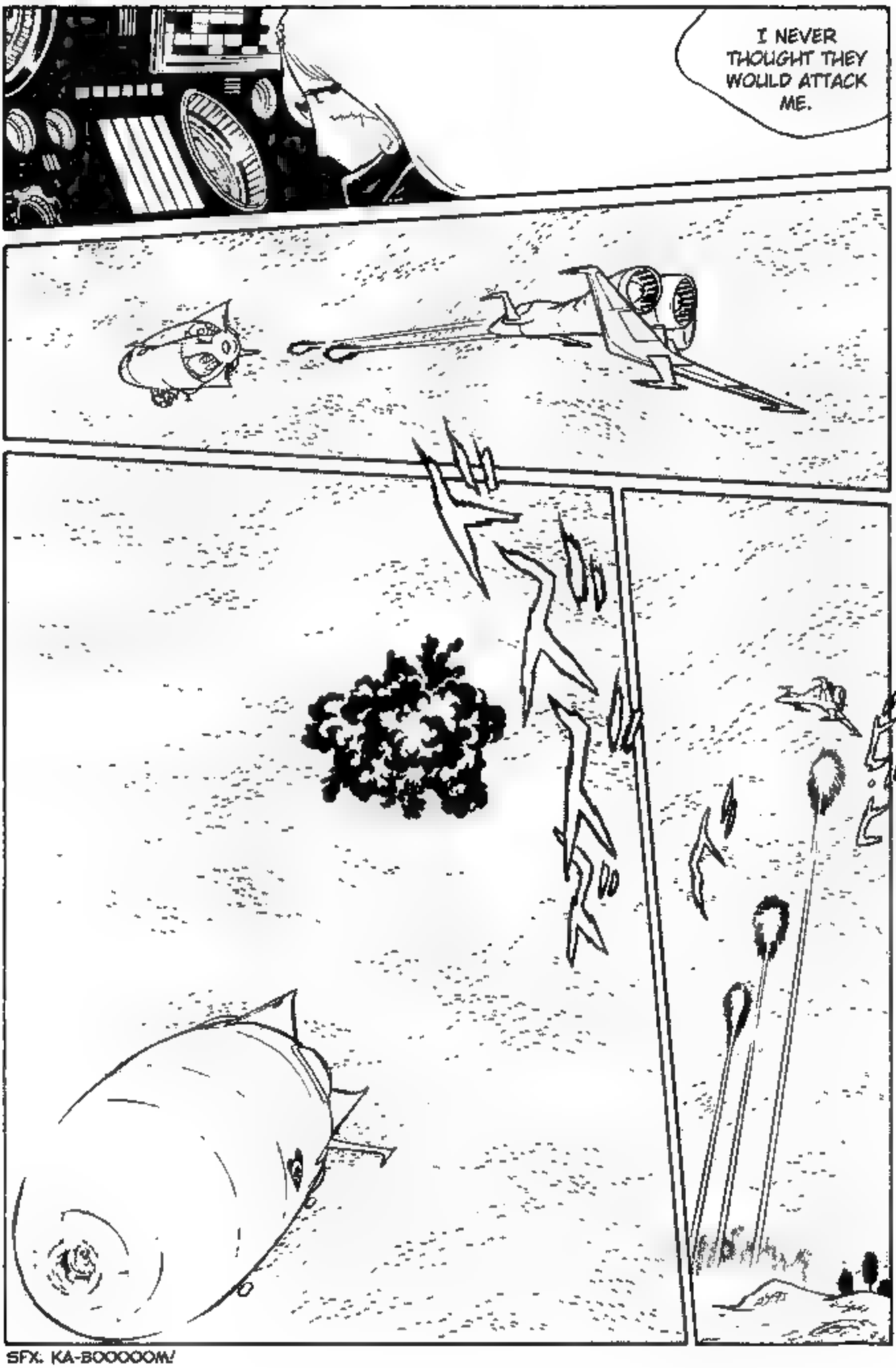
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!
WHAT!? THERE'S A SHIP ON THIS PLANET? BUT THAT'S ABSURD!!

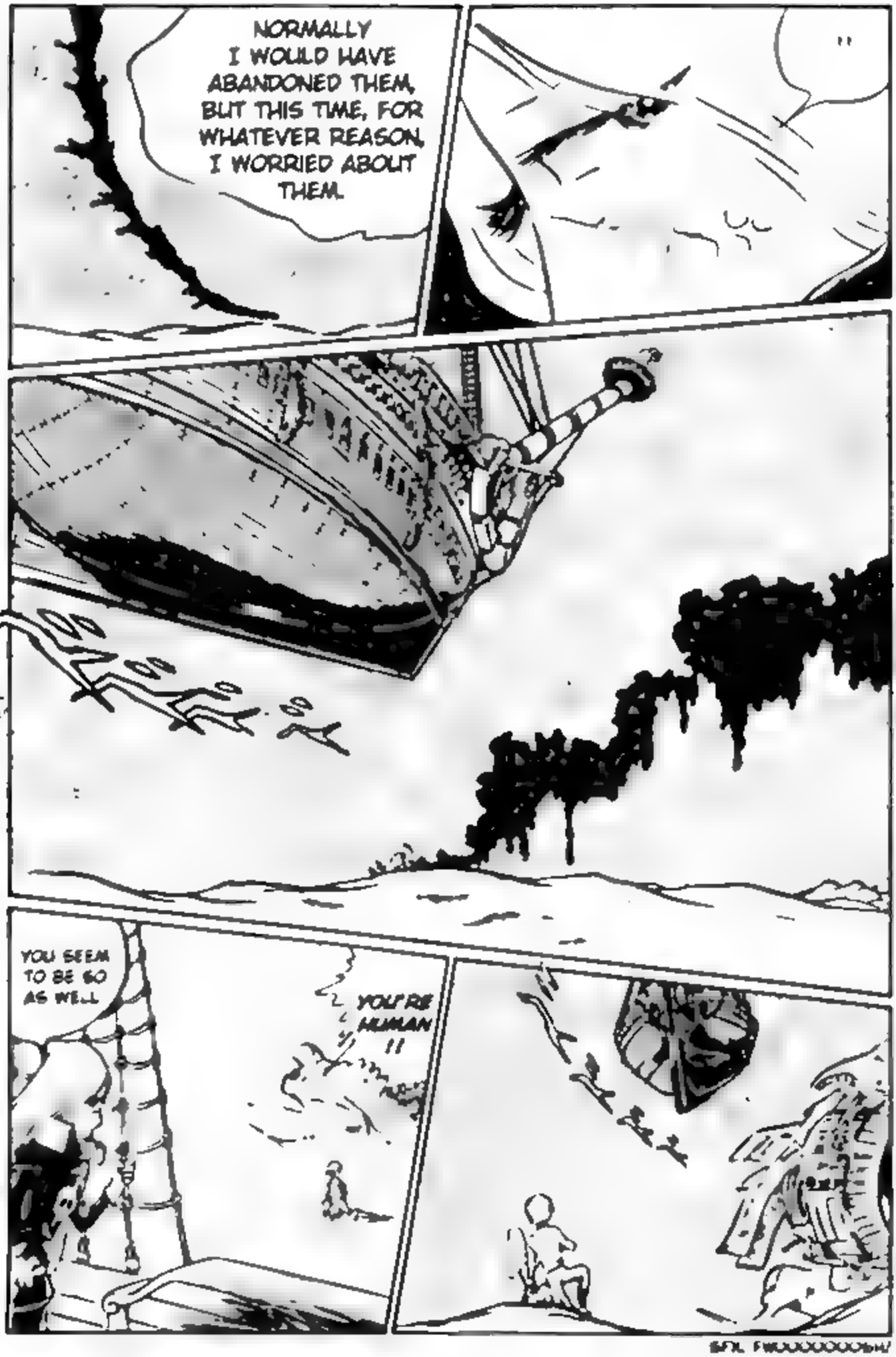

IT'S RISING AND FALLING IN ALTITUDE. IT MUST BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
WHERE'S IT GOING? THERE'S NOTHING OVER THERE...
Just as they had noticed me, I, too, had noticed the vital signs to the north of the Handprint Tattoo... There were humans here.
As I headed north, I felt relieved that there were people, however few...
WE'RE PICKING UP VITAL SIGNS. . THERE'S HUMANS ON BOARD!!
IS IT AN ANDROID SHIP? NO, MAYBE AN UNPILOTED SCOUTING VESSEL...?

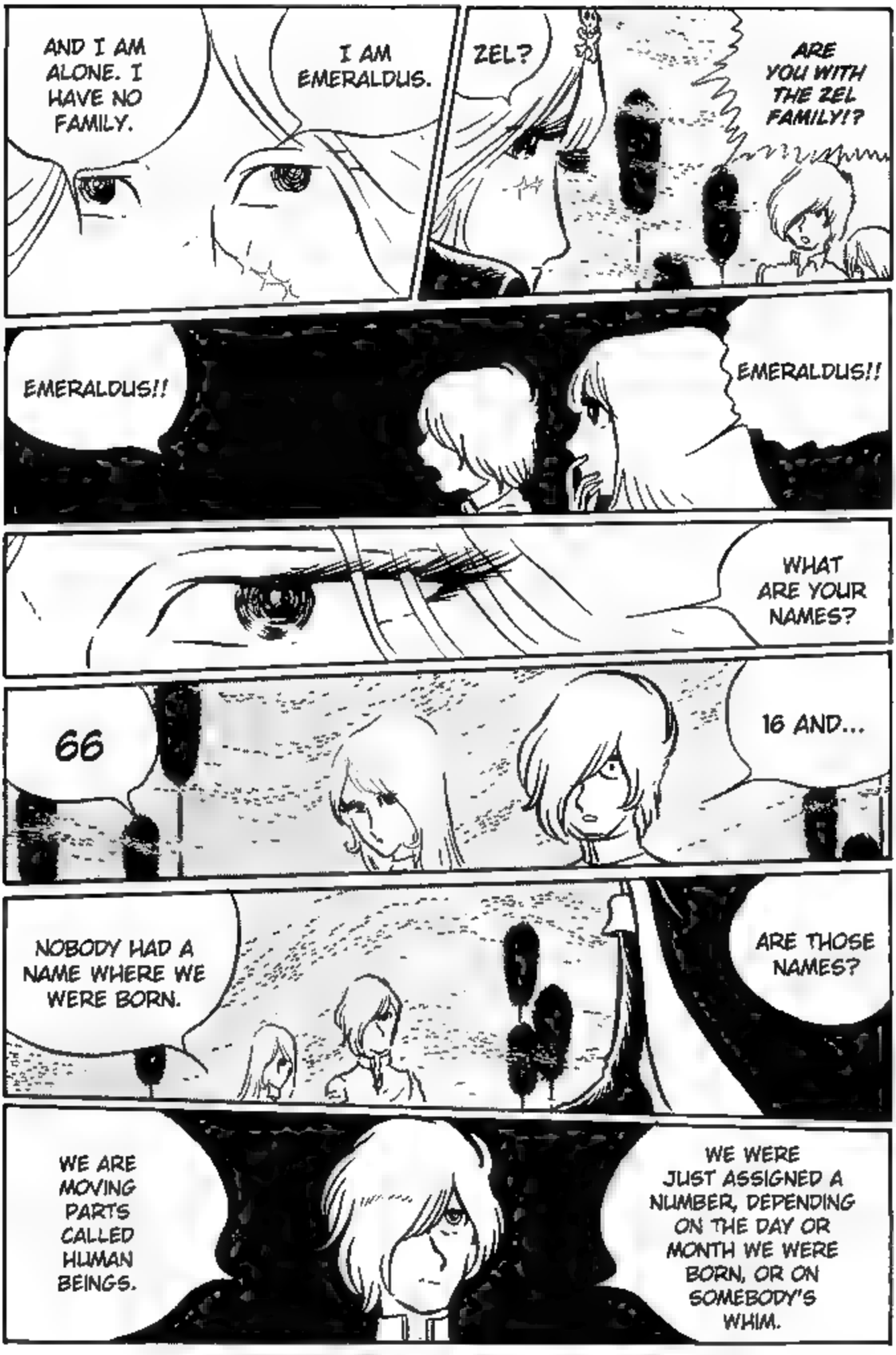

As I was in a hurry, I had no intention of checking what kind of human beings those vital signs belonged to.
But I could not detect any lifeforms apart from them.
And those vital signs that I paid no heed to followed me from the foot of the Handprint Plateau!!

SFX: SWOOOOOSH!

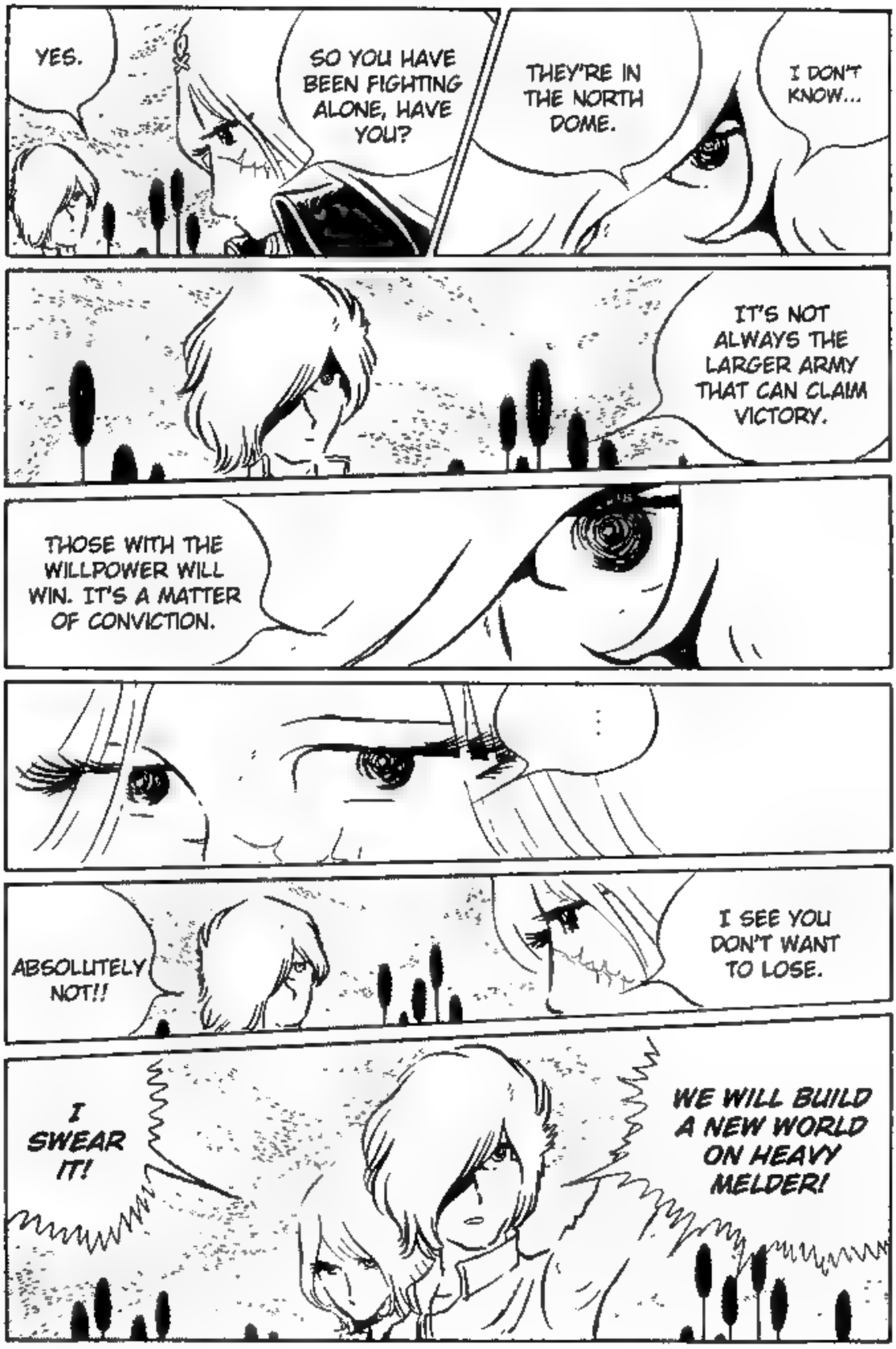

AT 12:00? NOT THE PEOPLE COMING BEHIND US?
BE CAREFUL, EMERALDUS. DETECTING LARGE-SCALE VITAL SIGNS AT 12:00!!
OVER THERE!!
BUT HEAVY MELDER HAS BEEN ALL BUT DESERTED FOR SO LONG...
SFX: BUDDA/ BUDDA/ BUDDA/

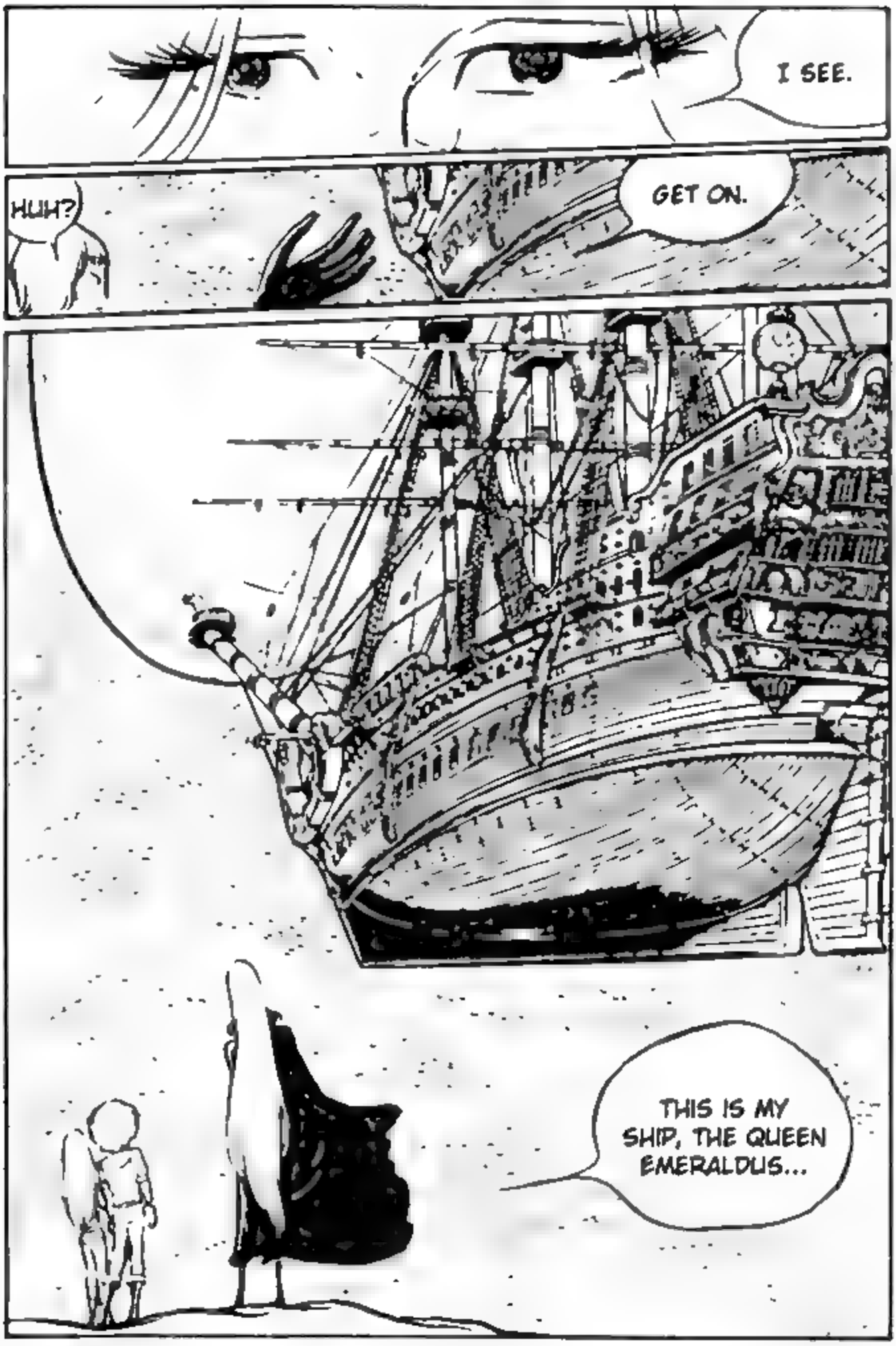

I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WOULD ATTACK ME.
SFX: BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
SFX: KA-BOOOOOM!

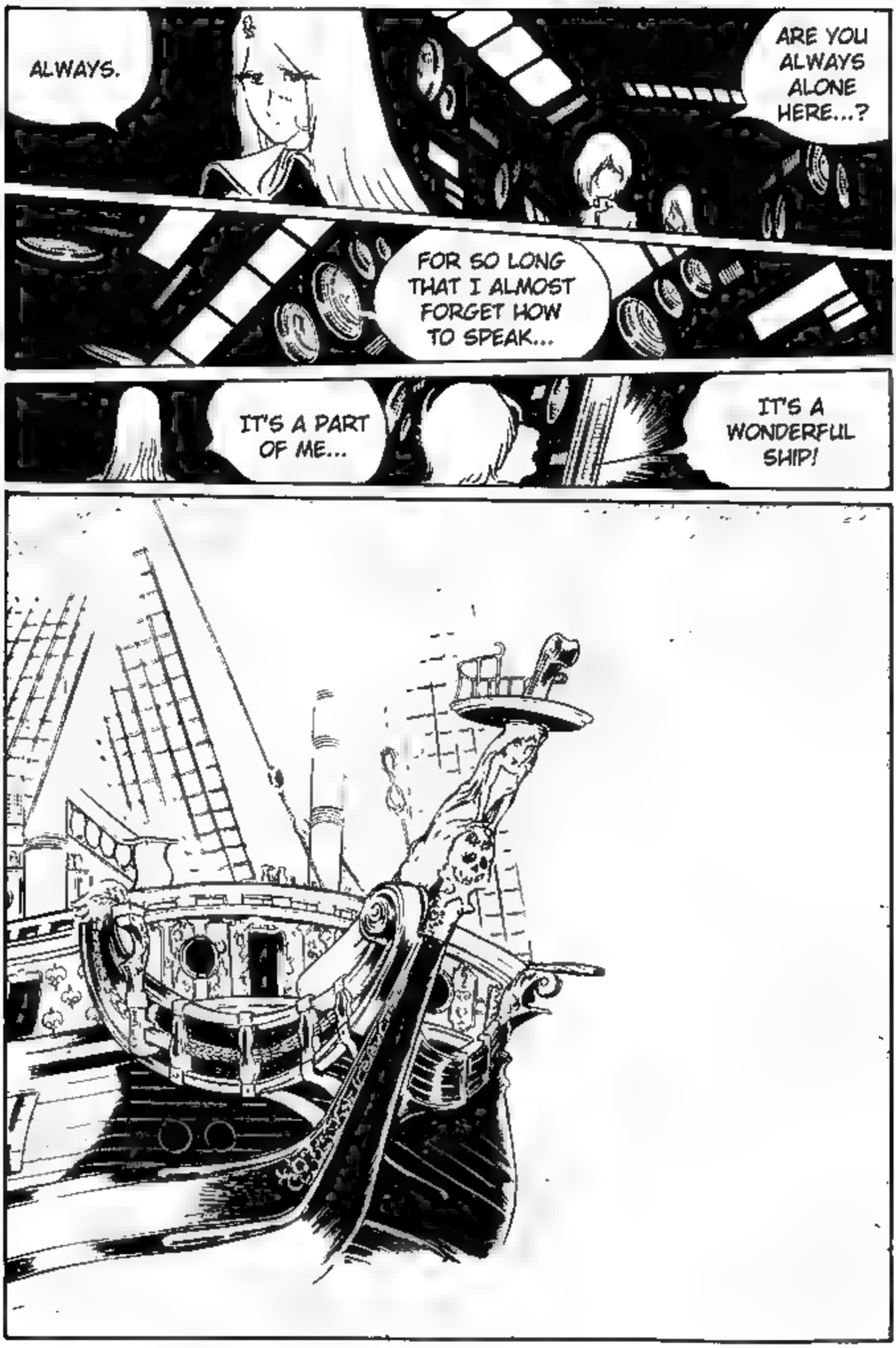

NORMALLY I WOULD HAVE ABANDONED THEM, BUT THIS TIME, FOR WHATEVER REASON, I WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
"
SFX: FWOOO-OOOSH
YOU SEEM TO BE SO AS WELL
YOU'RE HUMAN !!
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

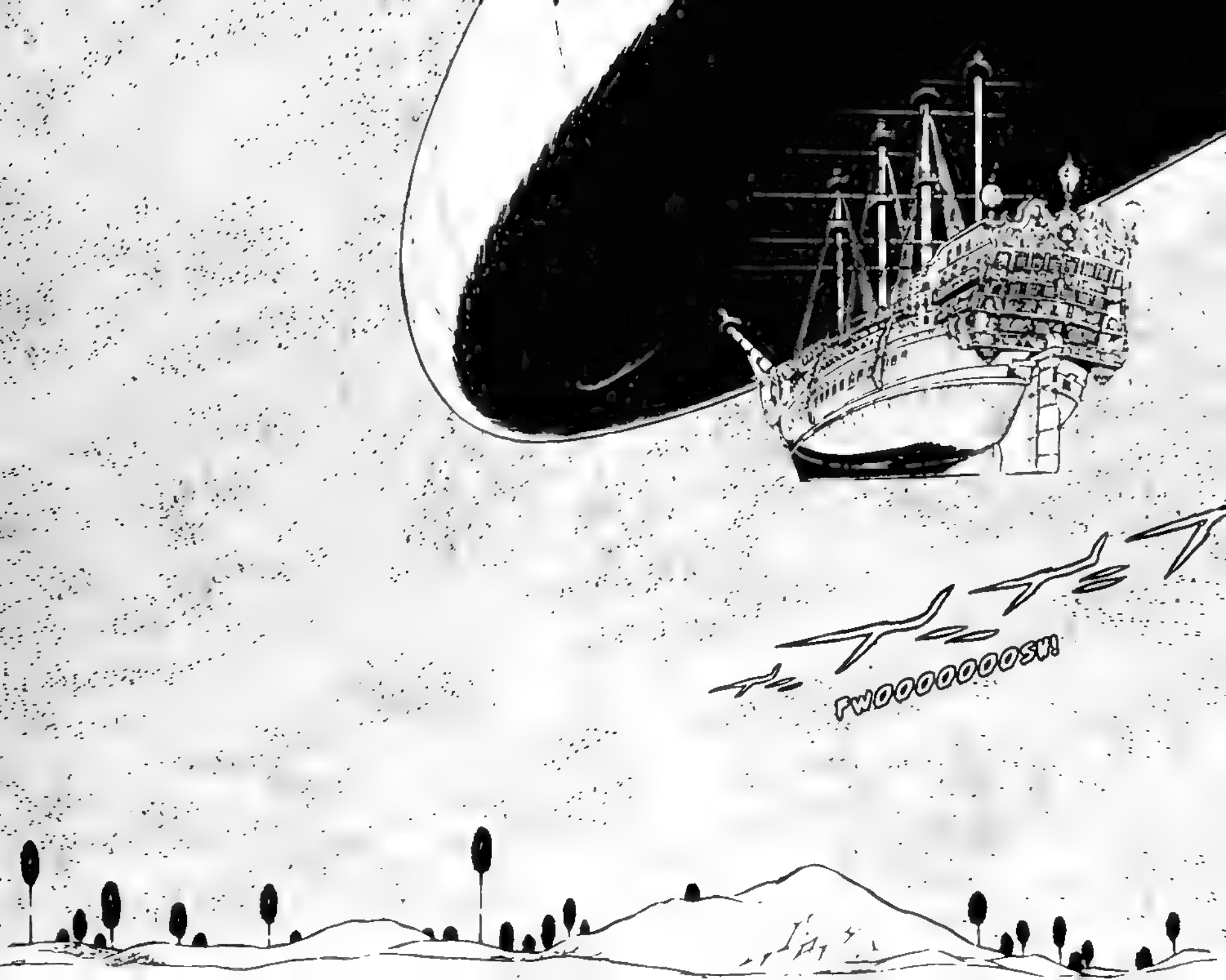

AND I AM ALONE. I HAVE NO FAMILY.
I AM EMERALDUS.
ZEL?
ARE YOU WITH THE ZEL FAMILY!?
EMERALDUS!!
EMERALDUS!!
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
66
16 AND...
NOBODY HAD A NAME WHERE WE WERE BORN.
ARE THOSE NAMES?
WE ARE MOVING PARTS CALLED HUMAN BEINGS.
WE WERE JUST ASSIGNED A NUMBER, DEPENDING ON THE DAY OR MONTH WE WERE BORN, OR ON SOMEBODY'S WHIM.

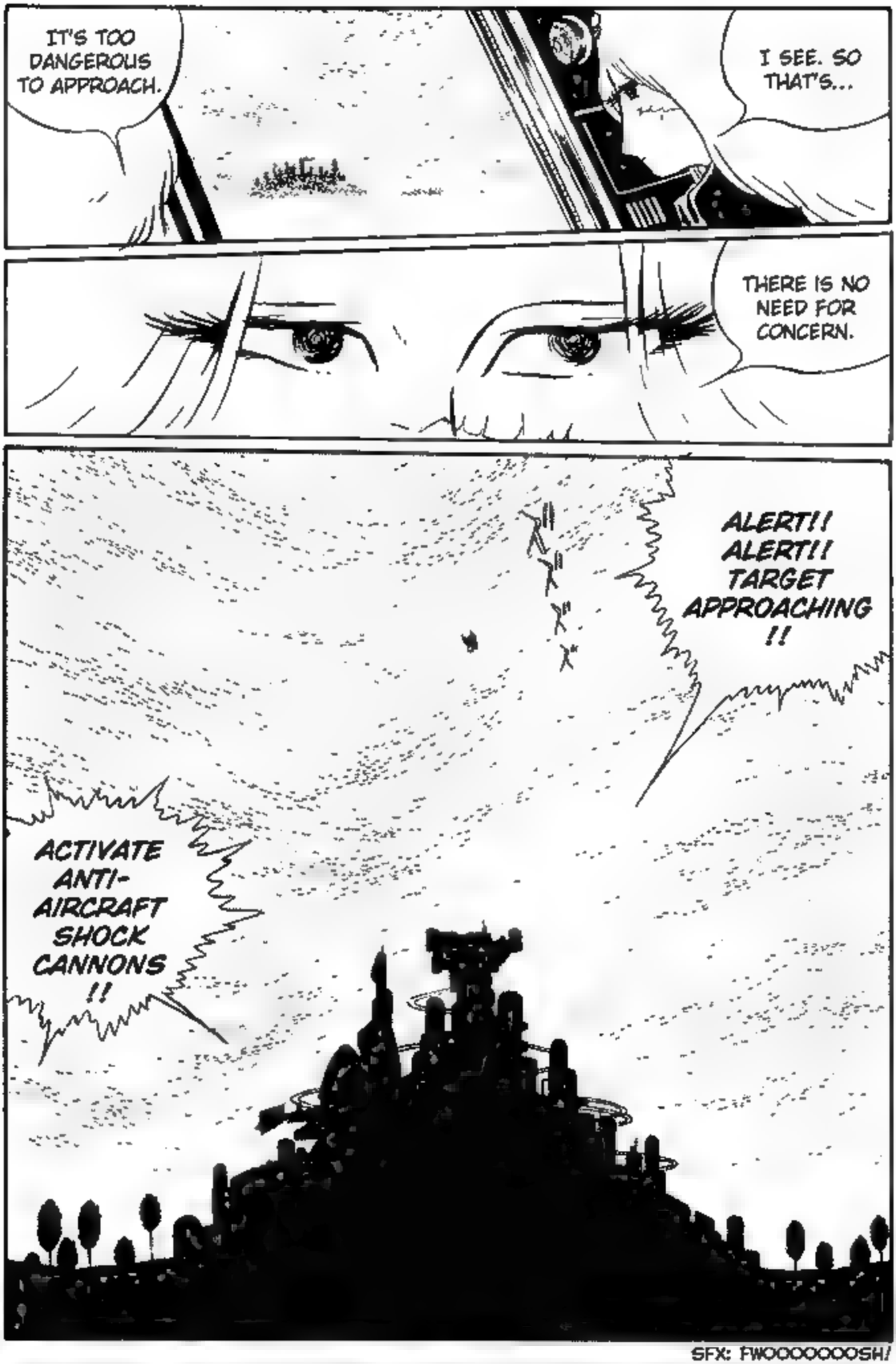
THE ZEL FAMILY...
AND WHO IS ZEL?
IS THE FAMILY THAT CAME HERE... TO MAKE HEAVY MELDER THE SAME KIND OF COLONY.
AND I THOUGHT THAT 66 AND I... COULD FINALLY BUILD A NEW WORLD...
THEY WANT TO MAKE WORLD IN WHICH HUMAN BEINGS HAVE NUMBERS INSTEAD OF NAMES?
THAT'S CORRECT...
HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE IN THE ZEL FAMILY?


YES.
SO YOU HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ALONE, HAVE YOU?
THEY'RE IN THE NORTH DOME.
I DON'T KNOW...
IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE LARGER ARMY THAT CAN CLAIM VICTORY.
THOSE WITH THE WILLPOWER WILL WIN. IT'S A MATTER OF CONVICTION.
...
I SEE YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE.
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
I SWEAR IT!
WE WILL BUILD A NEW WORLD ON HEAVY MELDER!

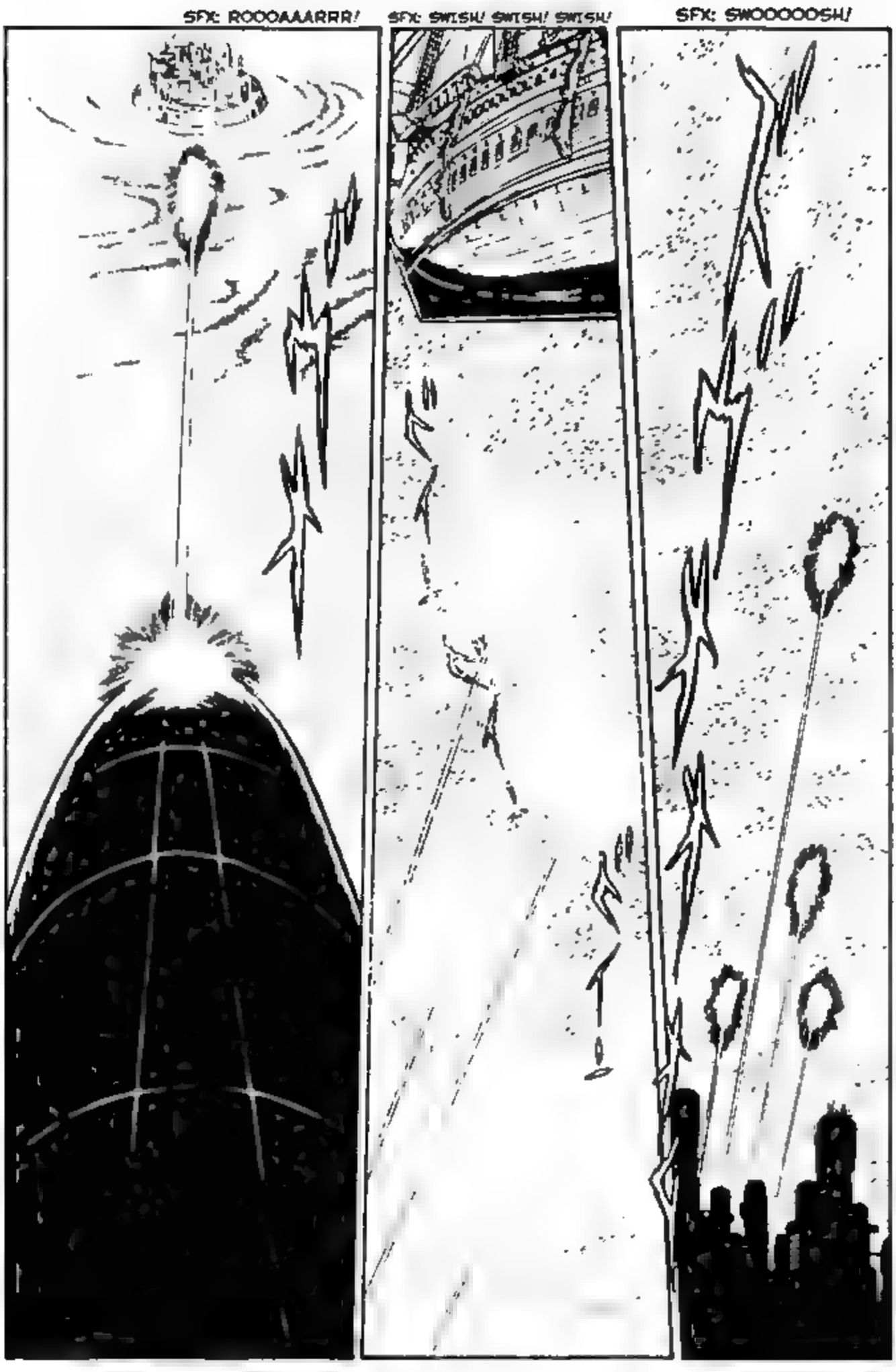

I SEE.
GET ON.
HUH?
THIS IS MY SHIP, THE QUEEN EMERALDUS...


ALWAYS.
ARE YOU ALWAYS ALONE HERE...?
FOR SO LONG THAT I ALMOST FORGET HOW TO SPEAK...
IT'S A PART OF ME...
IT'S A WONDERFUL SHIP!

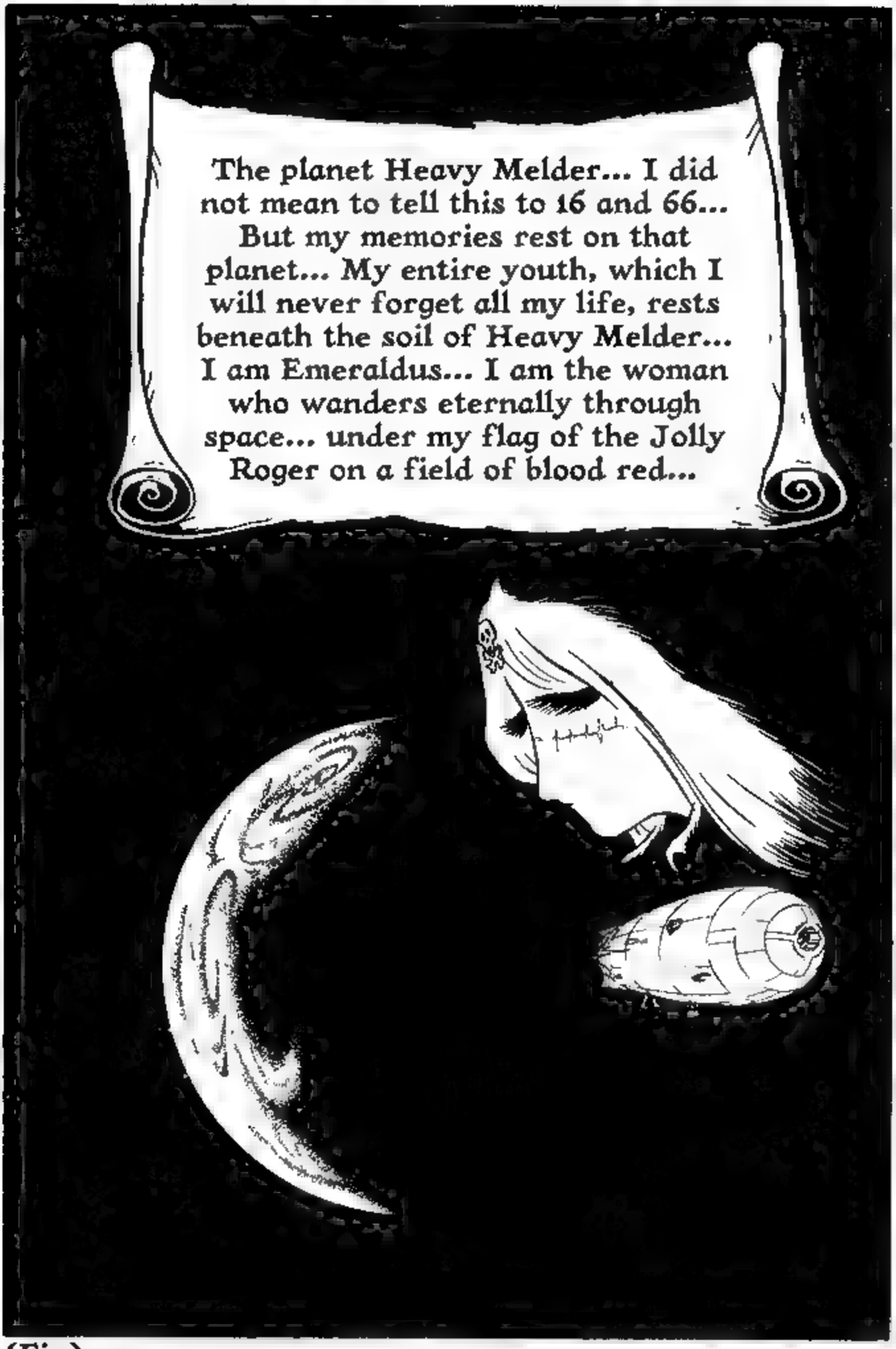

FWOOOOOOOSH!


IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO APPROACH.
I SEE. SO THAT'S...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN.
ALERT!! ALERT!! TARGET APPROACHING !!
ACTIVATE ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHOCK CANNONS !!

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!


SFX: ROOOAAARRR!
SFX: SWISH! SWISH! SWISH!
SFX: SWOOOOOSH!

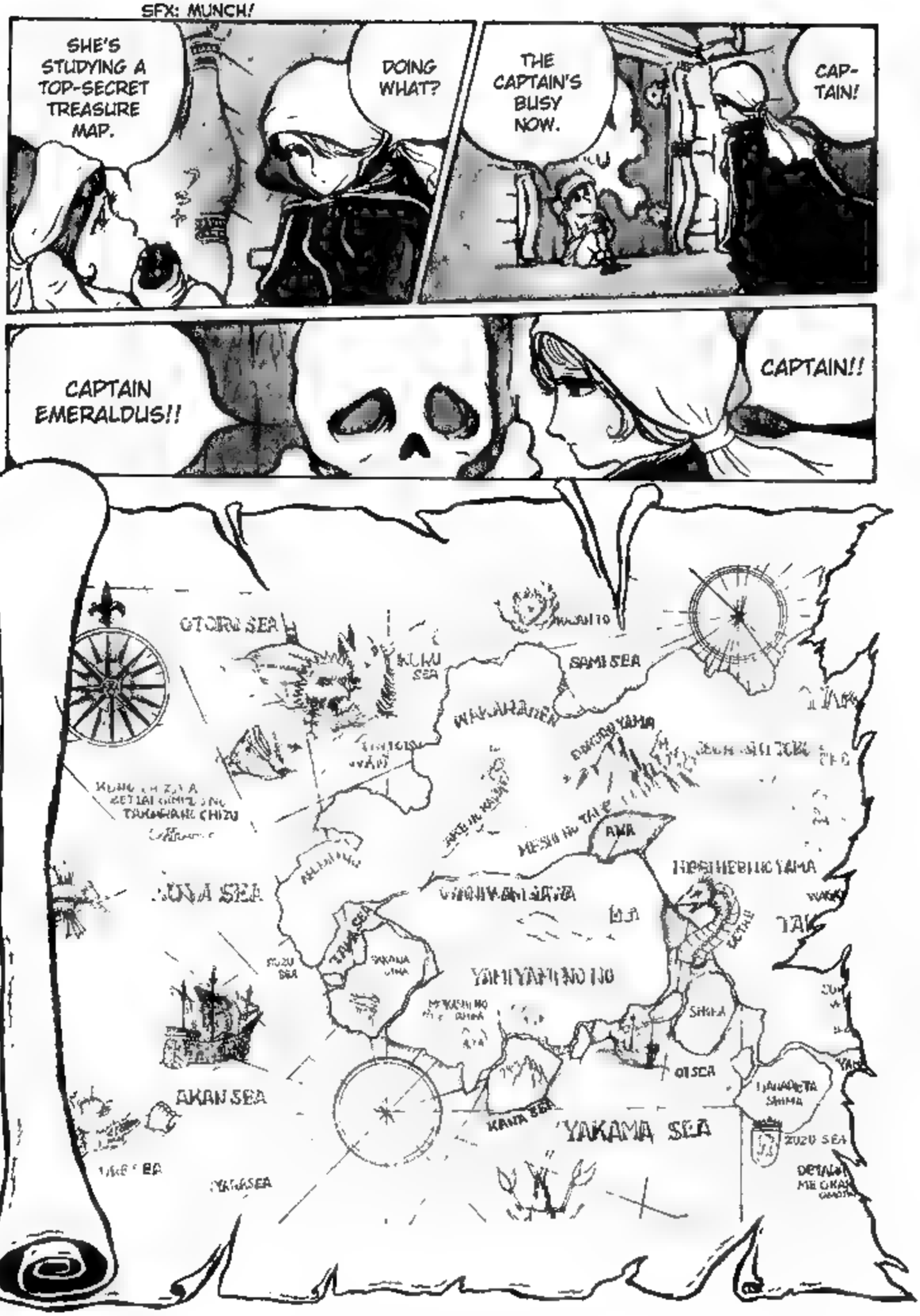
BECAUSE... YOU SAID THE SAME THING AS A PERSON I ONCE KNEW DID...
WHY...?
IS THE SAME AS HIS...
THE BLOOD BURNING IN YOUR CHEST...
I CANNOT DELIVER THIS PLANET INTO THE ZEL FAMILY'S HANDS.


The planet Heavy Melder... I did not mean to tell this to 16 and 66... But my memories rest on that planet... My entire youth, which I will never forget all my life, rests beneath the soil of Heavy Melder... I am Emeraldus... I am the woman who wanders eternally through space... under my flag of the Jolly Roger on a field of blood red...

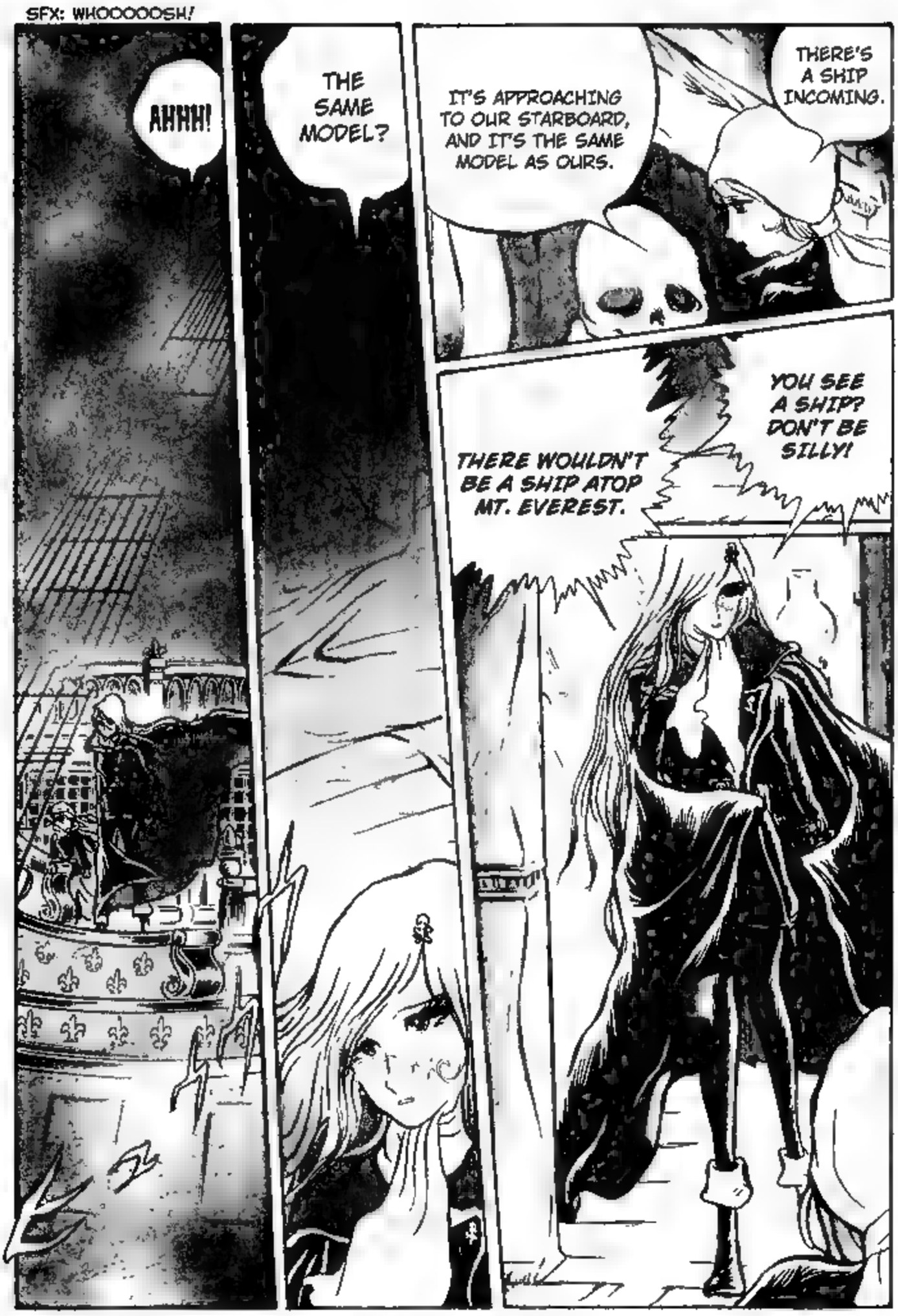
(Fin)

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!

SHE WAS BORED, SO SHE'S DOING A FASHION SHOW IN FRONT OF HER MIRROR.
WHERE'S THE CAPTAIN?
SOME-THING HAPPEN ?
AREN'T YOU WOMEN? WHY DON'T YOU SPEND SOME TIME GROOMING YOURSELVES?
NOT LIKE THAT'LL DO ME MUCH GOOD.
OH, GO TO HELL.
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME LATER ON THEN!


SFX: MUNCH!
SHE'S STUDYING A TOP-SECRET TREASURE MAP.
DOING WHAT?
THE CAPTAIN'S BUSY NOW.
CAP-TAIN!
CAPTAIN EMERALDUS!!
CAPTAIN!!
OTORI SEA
SAMI SEA
AKAN SEA
YAKAMA SEA
YAMIYAMI NO UMI
KANA SEA
ZUZU SEA

Queen
EMERALDUS
I NEED THE OTHER HALF... BUT HOW AM I GOING TO FIND IT...?

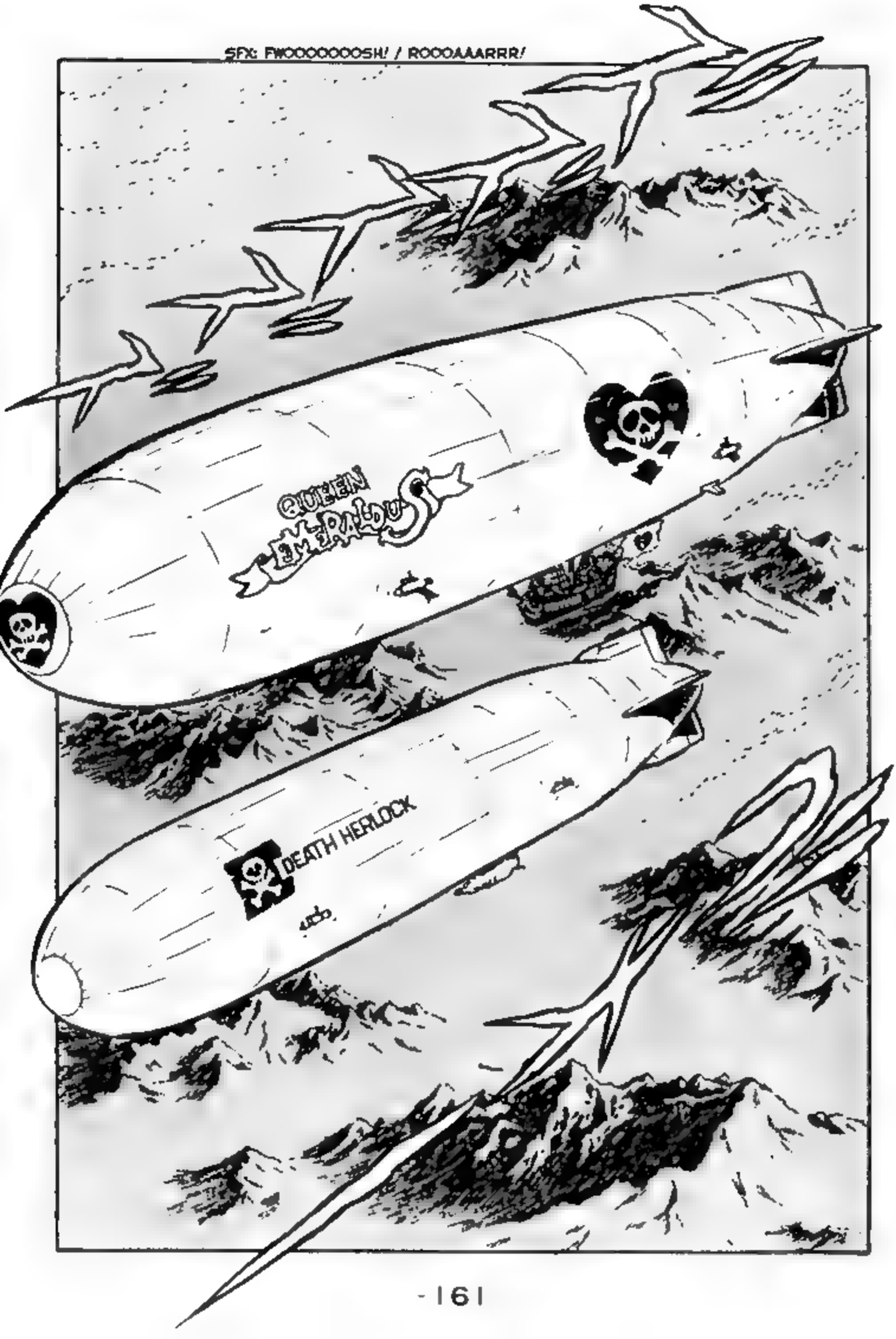

SFX: WHOOOOOSH!
AHHH!
THE SAME MODEL?
IT'S APPROACHING TO OUR STARBOARD, AND IT'S THE SAME MODEL AS OURS.
THERE'S A SHIP INCOMING.
YOU SEE A SHIP? DON'T BE SILLY!
THERE WOULDN'T BE A SHIP ATOP MT. EVEREST.

SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!
DEATH HEDLOCK

DEATH HEXLOCK

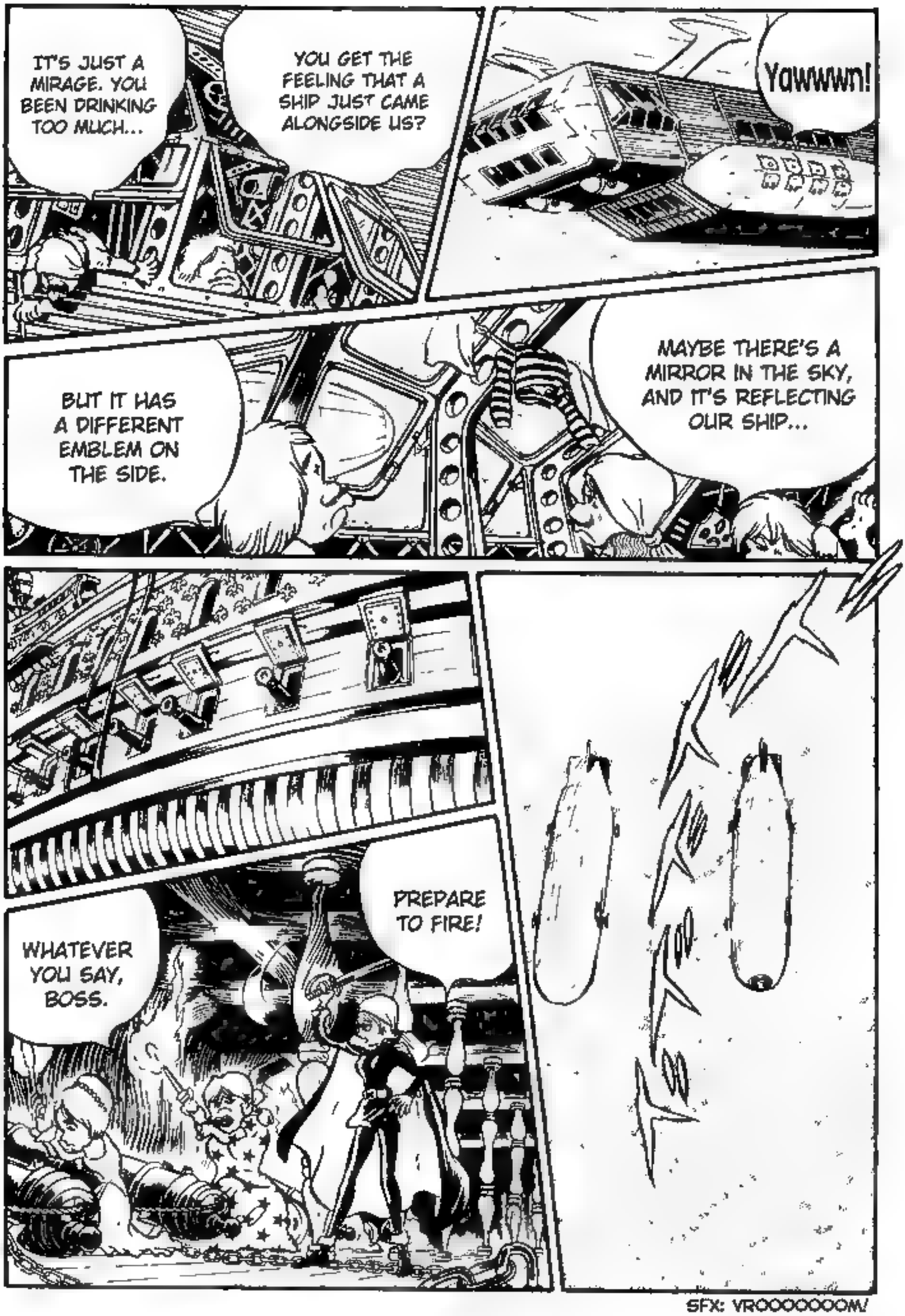
SFX: ROOOAAARRR!
DEATH HERLOCK
THE DEATH HERLOCK! IT'S HIM!!
HUHHH!?
EVERYONE, TO YOUR BATTLE STATIONS!
THE DEATH HERLOCK? YOU MEAN CAPTAIN HERLOCK'S SHIP?
WE'RE IN COMBAT WITH THE DEATH HERLOCK!! THE ODIOUS MEN'S SHIP!
I HAVE TO AT LEAST PUT SOME MAKEUP ON!
BUT DON'T WE HAVE TO FIGHT A SHIP FULL OF MEN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!? WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME HERE!!
YOU ALL MAKE ME SICK!!
AND YOU WERE JUST PICKING YOUR NOSE A SECOND AGO!!
AIEEEEE!

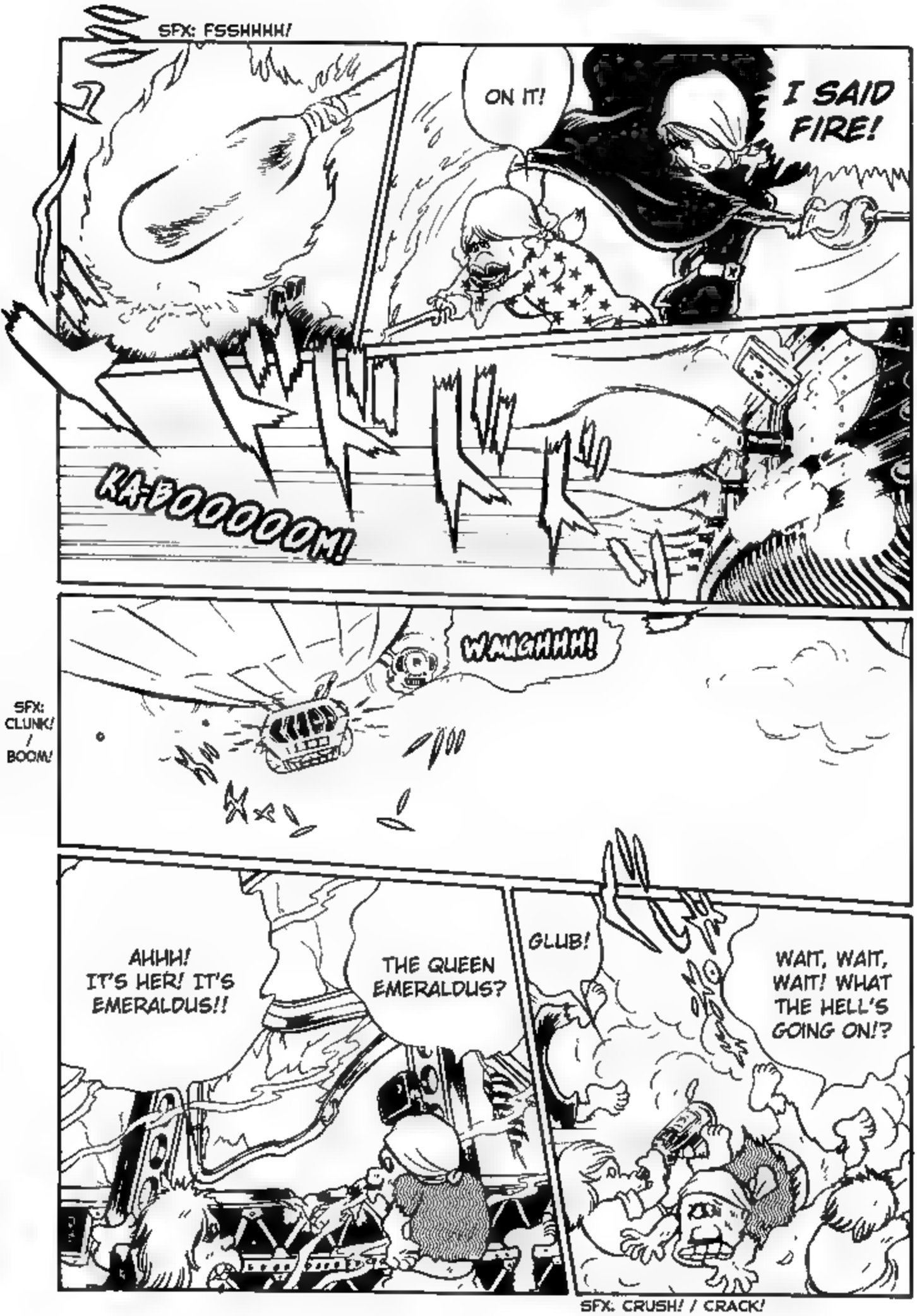
SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH!
HELMSWOMAN! GET ALONGSIDE THE HERLOCK AND BROAD-SIDE IT!!
ENGINES AT FULL-THROTTLE!!
CAPTAIN EMERALDUS! THE DEATH HERLOCK IS DESCENDING!
SFX: RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!


SFX: FWOOOOOOOSH! / ROOOAAARRR!
QUEEN MEDUSA
DEATH HERLOCK

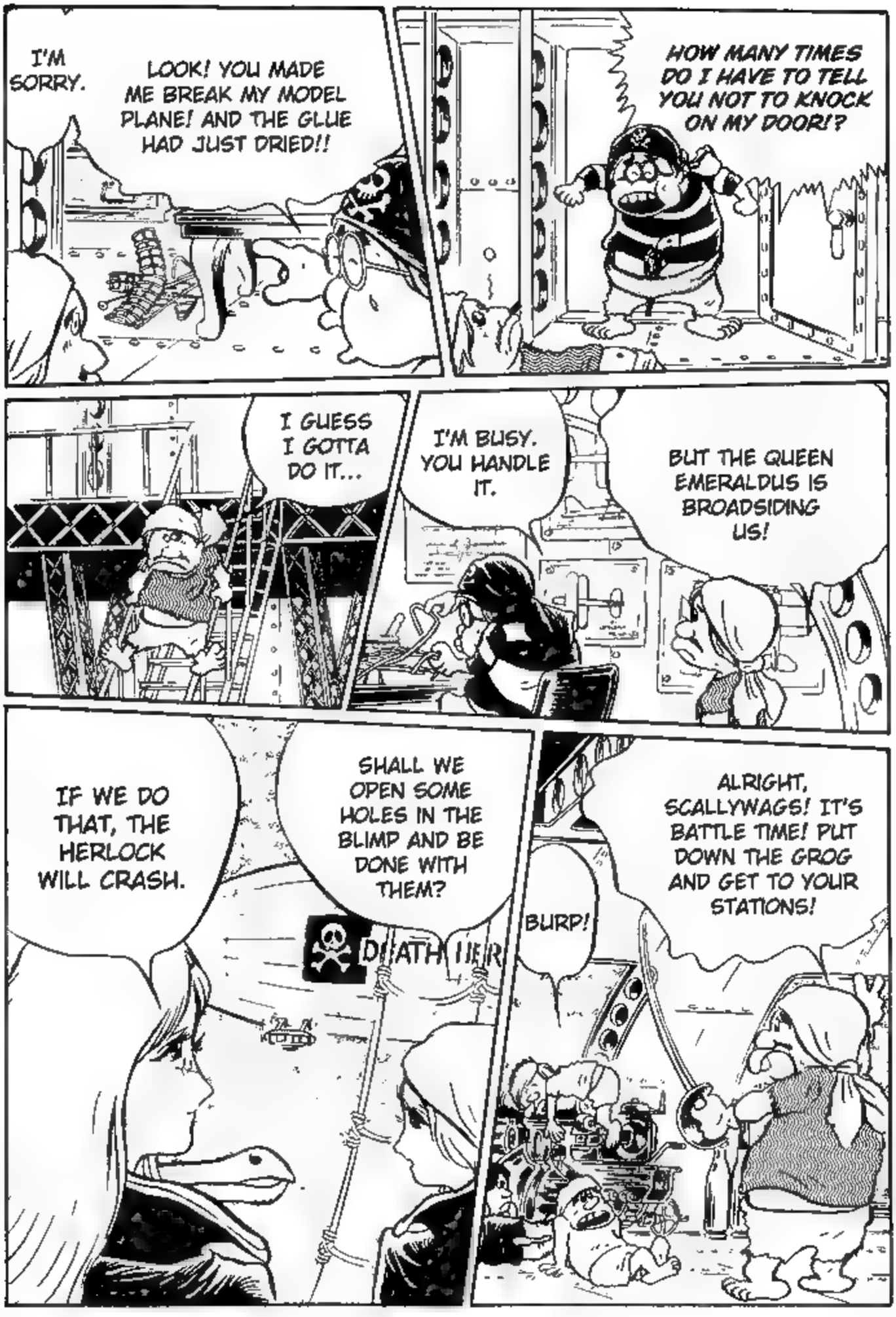
BRING IT HERE. I CAN'T GET MYSELF IN A FIGHTING MOOD WITHOUT IT.
UHH... I THINK IT'S STILL IN THE CAGE...
FIRST MATE MEG!! WHERE'S MY BIRD?
DEATH HERLOCK
SFX: CROWD/
HUHHH !?
PARTY POOPER...
THIS IS A BATTLE, NOT A FASHION SHOW!
CAWWW ...?
COME HERE, HAWHAW!
SFX: KER-CHAK/

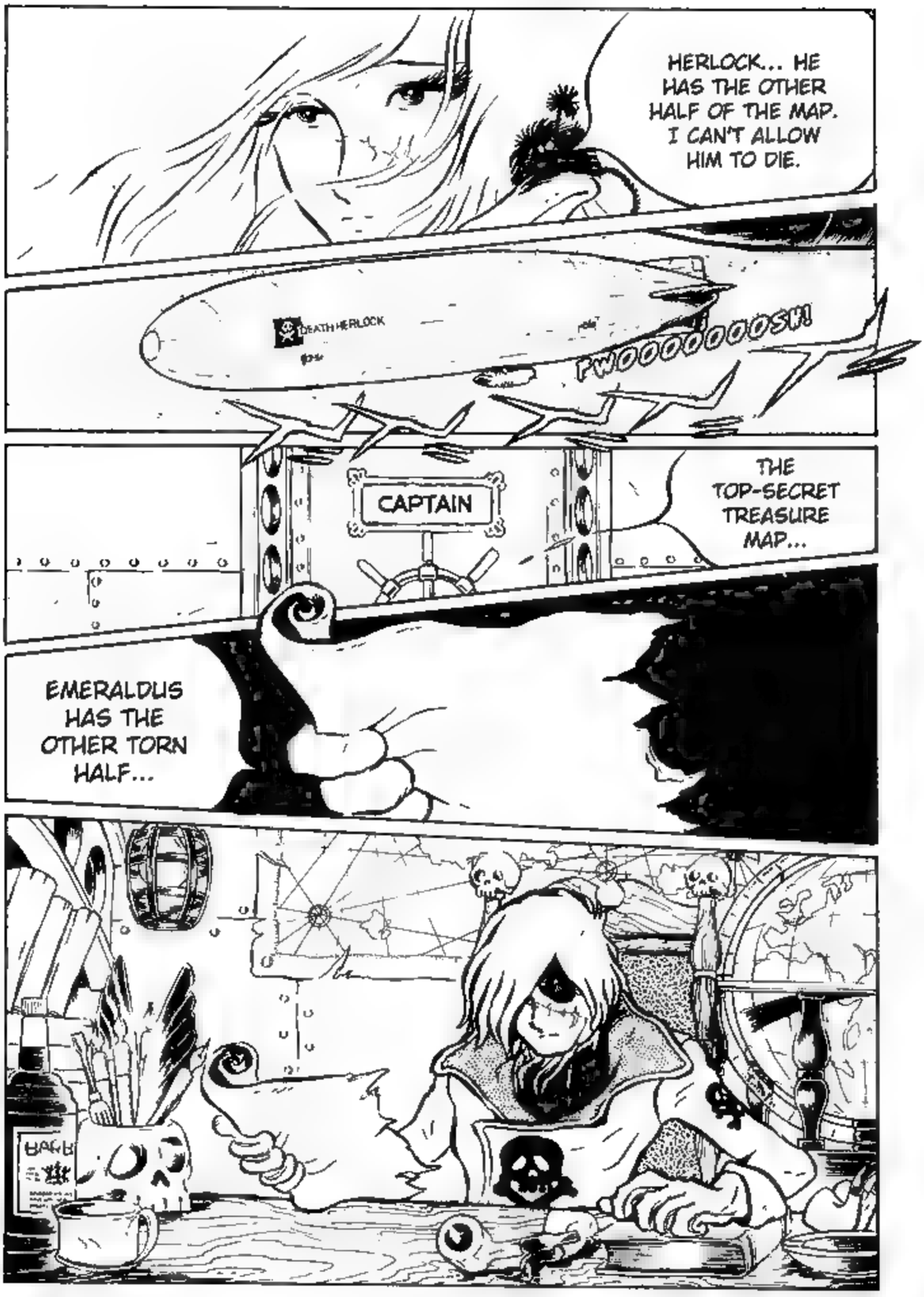
SFX: CAWWW! CAWWW! CAWWW! CAWWW!
SFX: FLAP! FLAP!
CAWWW!!
MON-STER!
?
COME, HAWHAW!
I SWEAR I'LL KILL THAT THING SOMEDAY!
WATCH OUT FOR EVEREST'S PEAK!! IF IT CATCHES AND TEARS OUR SHIP, WE'RE DOOMED!!
WE'RE AP-PROACHING THE DEATH HERLOCK!!


IT'S JUST A MIRAGE. YOU BEEN DRINKING TOO MUCH...
YOU GET THE FEELING THAT A SHIP JUST CAME ALONGSIDE US?
Yawwwn!
BUT IT HAS A DIFFERENT EMBLEM ON THE SIDE.
MAYBE THERE'S A MIRROR IN THE SKY, AND IT'S REFLECTING OUR SHIP...
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS.
PREPARE TO FIRE!
SFX: VROOOOOOOM!

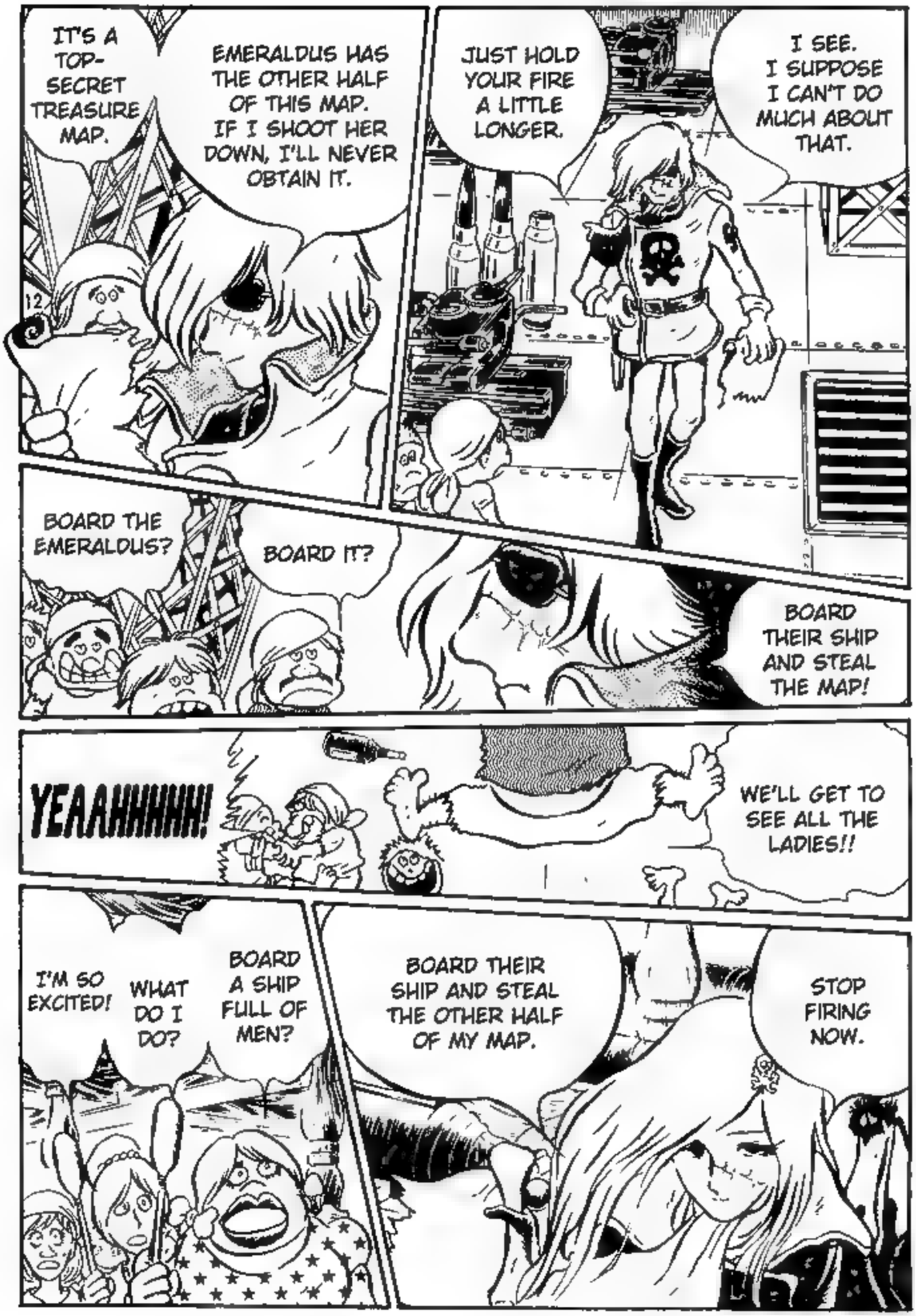

SFX: FSSHHHH!
ON IT!
I SAID FIRE!
KA-BOOOOOM!
WAUGHHH!
SFX: CLUNK! / BOOM!
AHHH! IT'S HER! IT'S EMERALDUS!!
THE QUEEN EMERALDUS?
GLUB!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!?
SFX: CRUSH! / CRACK!

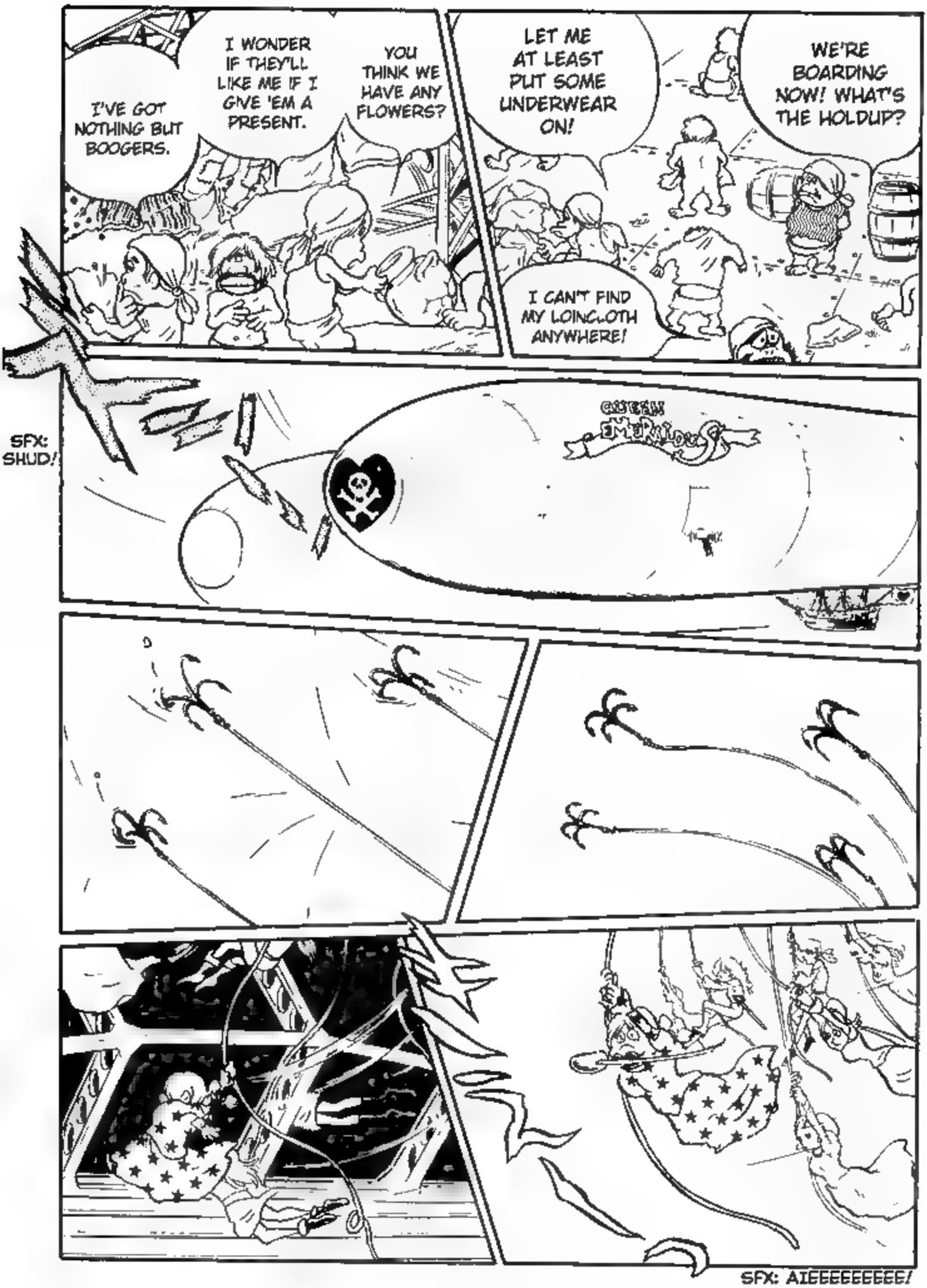
CAN'T YOU KEEP IT DOWN WHILE WE'RE FLYING!?
WHAT A DRAG! THOSE IDIOTS ARE MAKING A RACKET ON THE STAIRS AGAIN!
CAPTAIN
CAPTAIN HERLOCK!!
CAPTAIN!!
LET THE FIRST MATE HANDLE IT. I NEED SOME MORE SLEEP HERE.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE SQUABBLING WITH LADIES...
APTAIN
WHAT? THE EMERALDUS? AH, YES, THE SHIP WITH THE ALL-WOMEN CREW.
CAPTA
FIRST MATE!! MR. YATTERAN!!
THE CAPTAIN TOLD ME TO LET THE FIRST MATE HANDLE SQUABBLING WITH LADIES.
WHERE'S THE FIRST MATE?
NO IDEA.
HAVE YOU CHECKED HIS ROOM?
SFX: PUNCH!
SFX: BANG! BANG! BANG!


I'M SORRY.
LOOK! YOU MADE ME BREAK MY MODEL PLANE! AND THE GLUE HAD JUST DRIED!!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO KNOCK ON MY DOOR!?
I GUESS I GOTTA DO IT...
I'M BUSY. YOU HANDLE IT.
BUT THE QUEEN EMERALDUS IS BROADSIDING US!
IF WE DO THAT, THE HERLOCK WILL CRASH.
SHALL WE OPEN SOME HOLES IN THE BLIMP AND BE DONE WITH THEM?
BURP!
ALRIGHT, SCALLYWAGS! IT'S BATTLE TIME! PUT DOWN THE GROG AND GET TO YOUR STATIONS!


HERLOCK... HE HAS THE OTHER HALF OF THE MAP. I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO DIE.
DEATH HERLOCK
FWOOOOOOOOSH!
CAPTAIN
THE TOP-SECRET TREASURE MAP...
EMERALDUS HAS THE OTHER TORN HALF...

AIM STRAIGHT AND LEVEL ON THE PORTSIDE! FIRE ALL CANNONS!!
TEAR THAT LADY SHIP TO HELL!
SET THE COURSE NICE AND EASY!
FULL THROTTLE ON BOTH ENGINES!! LOCK THE PROPELLER PITCH AT FULL SPEED!!
ROOOAARRR!
HOLD ON!
FI...!
READY!!
CANNON ON TARGET! ALL SHELLS LOADED AND READY!!
HE'S BUILDING A PLANE IN HIS ROOM, SIR.
WHAT HAPPENED TO FIRST MATE YATTERAN?


IT'S A TOP-SECRET TREASURE MAP.
EMERALDUS HAS THE OTHER HALF OF THIS MAP. IF I SHOOT HER DOWN, I'LL NEVER OBTAIN IT.
12
JUST HOLD YOUR FIRE A LITTLE LONGER.
I SEE. I SUPPOSE I CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT THAT.
BOARD THE EMERALDUS?
BOARD IT?
BOARD THEIR SHIP AND STEAL THE MAP!
YEAAHHHHH!
WE'LL GET TO SEE ALL THE LADIES!!
I'M SO EXCITED!
WHAT DO I DO?
BOARD A SHIP FULL OF MEN?
BOARD THEIR SHIP AND STEAL THE OTHER HALF OF MY MAP.
STOP FIRING NOW.


I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT BOOGERS.
I WONDER IF THEY'LL LIKE ME IF I GIVE 'EM A PRESENT.
YOU THINK WE HAVE ANY FLOWERS?
LET ME AT LEAST PUT SOME UNDERWEAR ON!
WE'RE BOARDING NOW! WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?
I CAN'T FIND MY LOINCLOTH ANYWHERE!
SFX: SHUD!
SFX: AIEEEEEEEEEE!

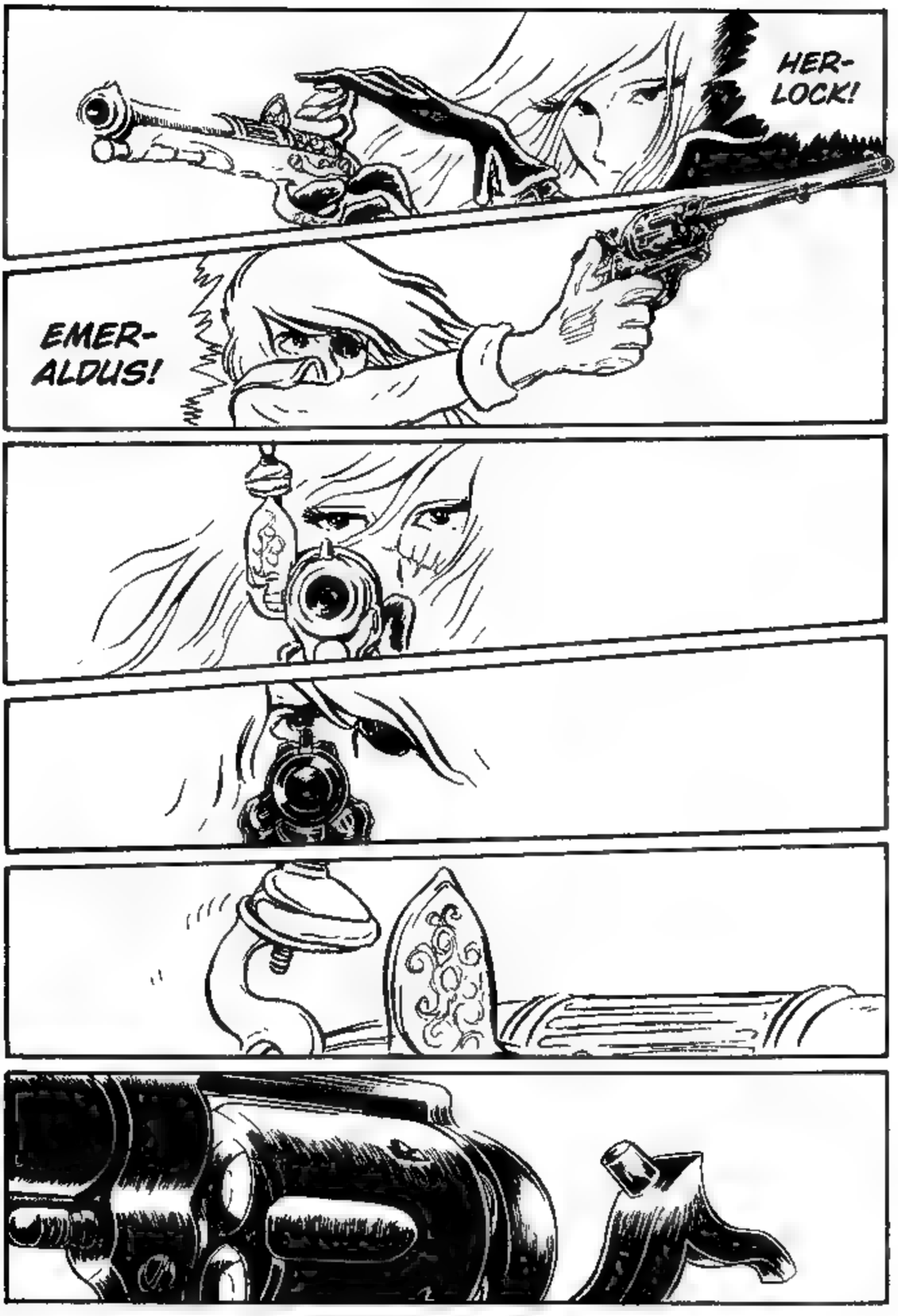
SFX: KA-BOOOM!
PREPARE YOURSELVES, MANLY MEN!
SEE, NOW THEY BOARDED US BECAUSE YOU HAD TO WASTE YOUR TIME!
WHAT YOU LOOKING AT?
OH, MY!
THAT SHIP'S FULL OF PERVS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AIEEEEE!
I'M GONNA BE THE MOST POPULAR!
LET'S GET THOSE WENCHES!
NO WAY! I AM!

I'VE GOT A HARD-ON ALREADY...
SMELLS LIKE PERFUME TO ME...
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
? ?
YOU CAN'T EAT FLOWERS! HAUL 'EM OFF!
WOMEN'S SHIPS ARE SO PRETTY...
AHHH, THEY'VE EVEN GOT FLOWERS HERE.
WHAT'S IN HERE?
WHO WAS IT THAT SAID THEY WERE ALL TALL AND HANDSOME?
HUH? IS THIS DWARF FROM THE HERLOCK CREW?
T... T... TWINKLY EYES! THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM! I'M EMBARRASSED!
WHAT HAPPE-NED?

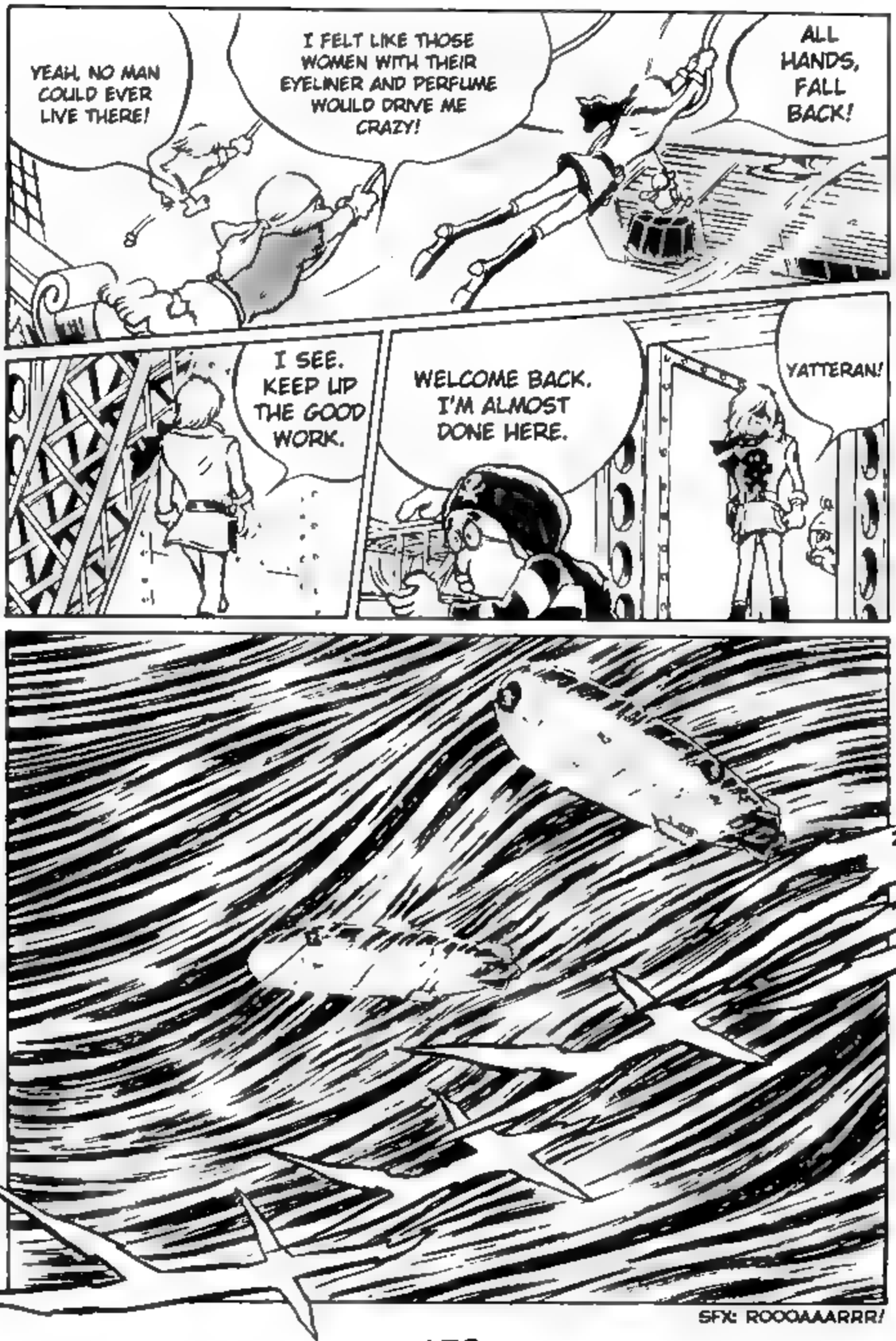
AND HE'S TOTALLY BOWLEGGED!
WHAT A BARBARIAN! HE'S GOT NO GAME AT ALL!
SHUT UP! WE'RE ALL MEN AMONG MEN!
LET ME TRY HER OUT.
THAT UGLY WENCH LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT BE DOWN FOR SOMETHING.
WE'RE GETTING STOOD UP HERE, MEN.
I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE FIGHTING THESE MONKEYS!
SFX: SLAP!
HEY THERE, PRETTY LADY!
SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVES SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
DAMMIT, SOMEONE MUST HAVE BEEN FLATTERING THAT WENCH...
I DON'T HAVE A PRAYER!
Ouch!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS ME WOULD EVER DATE A FREAK LIKE YOU!?

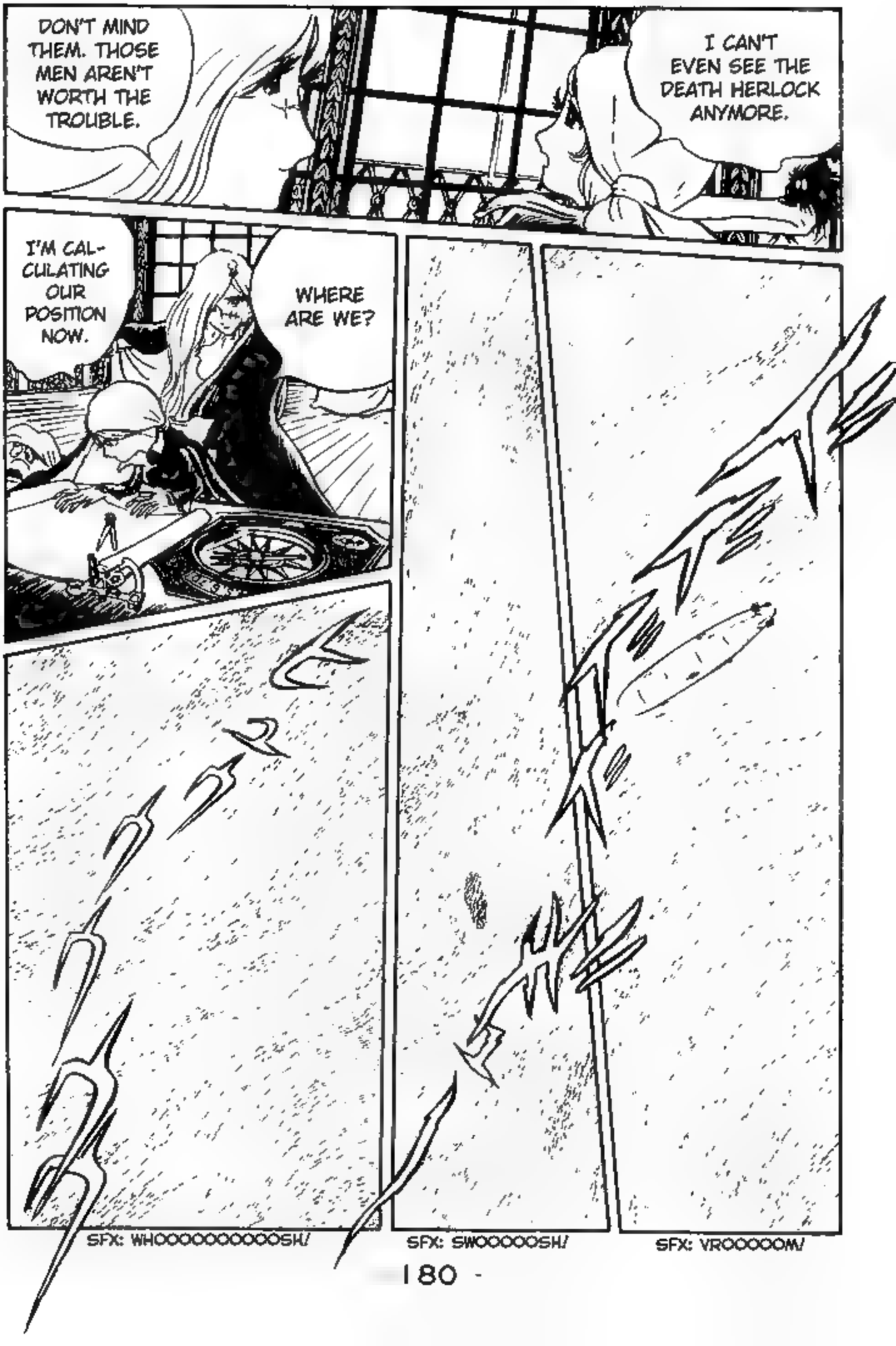
DON'T EAT FOOD THAT ISN'T YOURS!!
WHO JUST PEED OVER HERE?
SFX: SPLASH!
PUT SOME DAMN SHOES ON, WILL YOU!?
LIVING HERE SUCKS...
I WANNA GO BACK HOME...
CAPTAIN EMER-ALDUS!

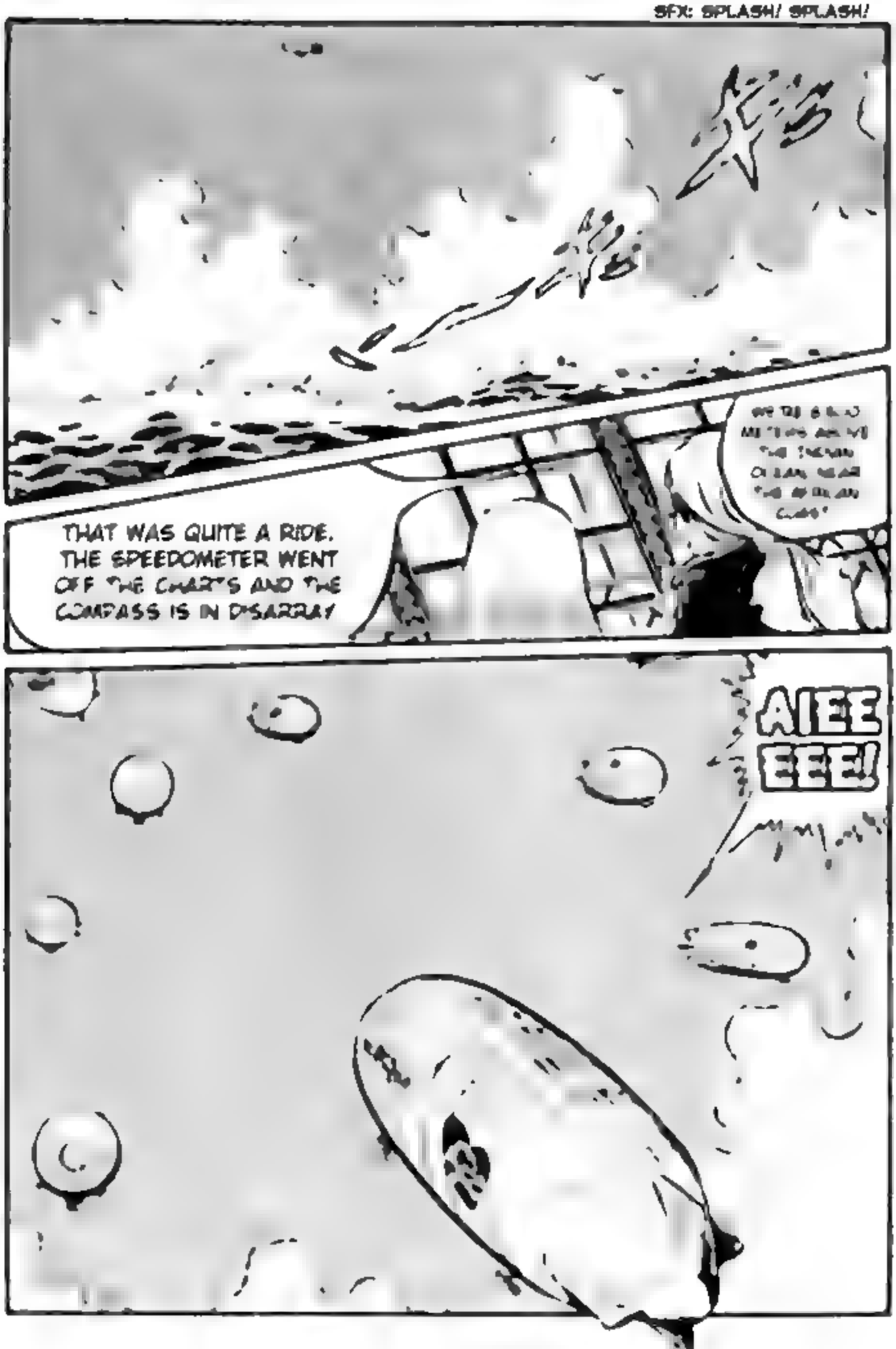
WELCOME ABOARD MY SHIP, HERLOCK!
IF YOUR LIFE MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU, I SUGGEST YOU HAND OVER YOUR HALF OF THE MAP.
THAT'S MY LINE, HERLOCK.
IT CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT WAY.
I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT, THEN.

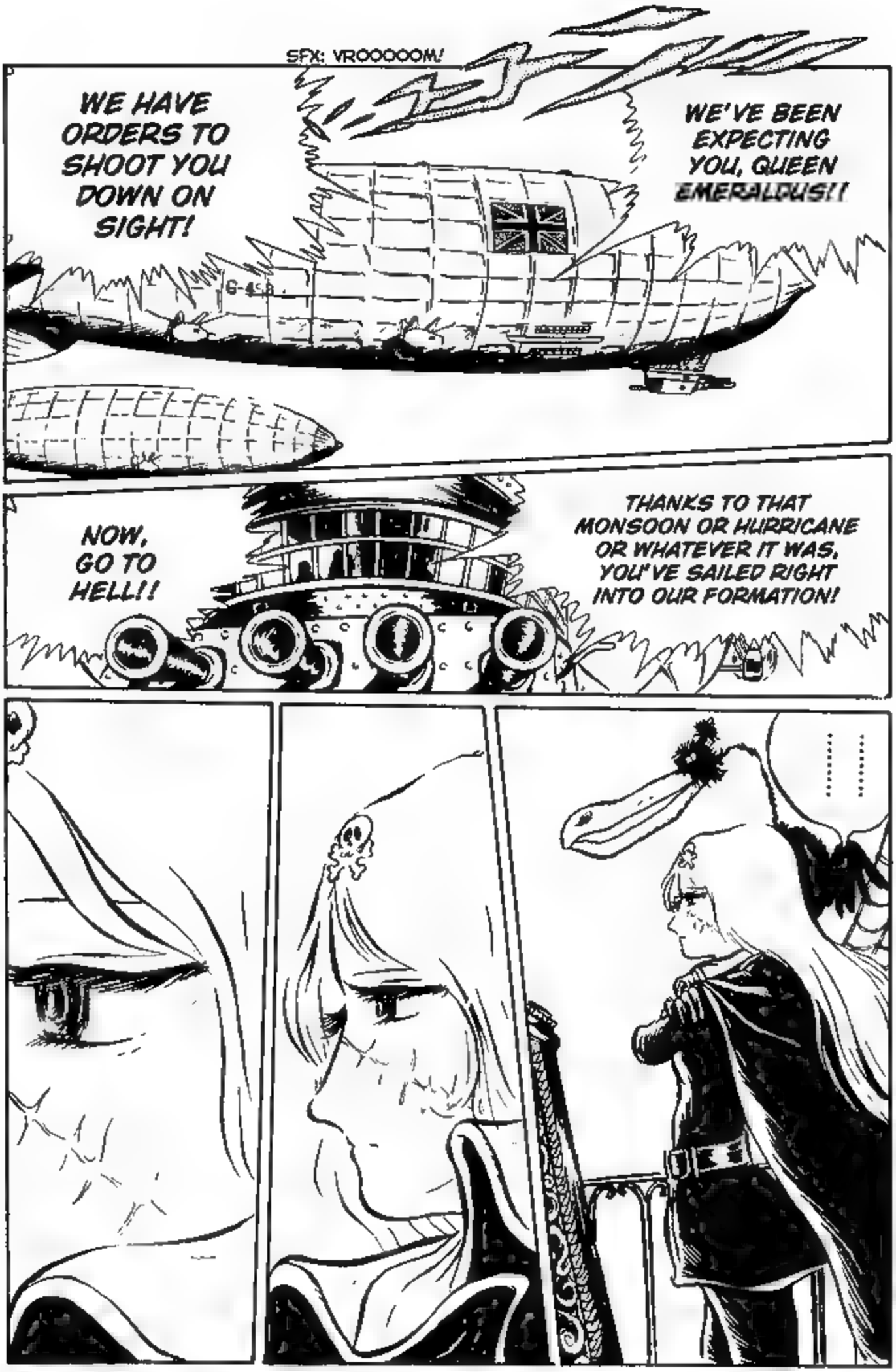

HER-
LOCK!
EMER-
ALDUS!

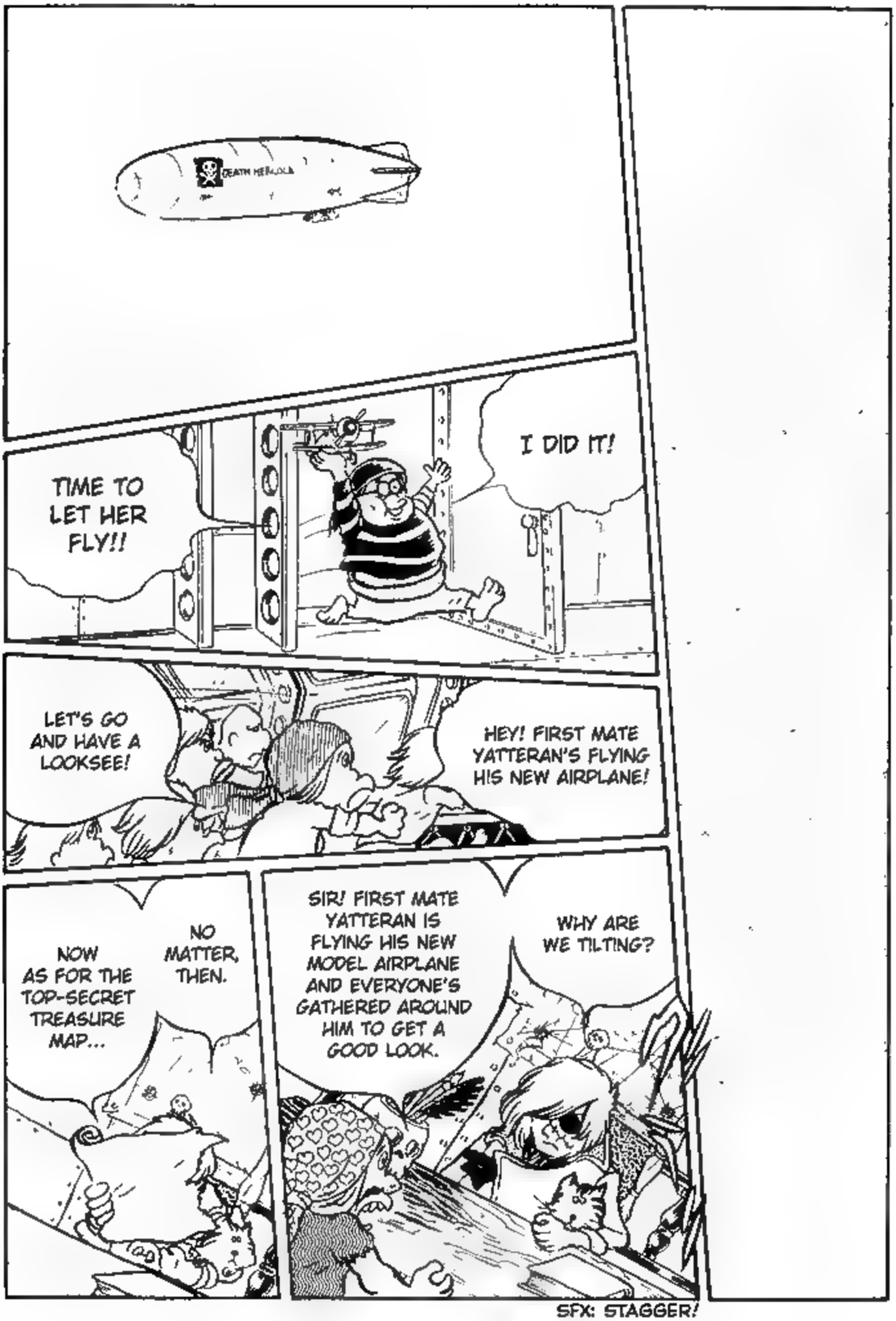
SFX: STAGGER!
WE'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A MONSOON CURRENT!! WE'RE BEING PULLED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN!
WHAT'S WRONG, MEG!?
WHOOOOOOOSH!
WE WILL MEET AGAIN, EMERALDUS!
I SUPPOSE THIS IS NO TIME FOR BATTLE.

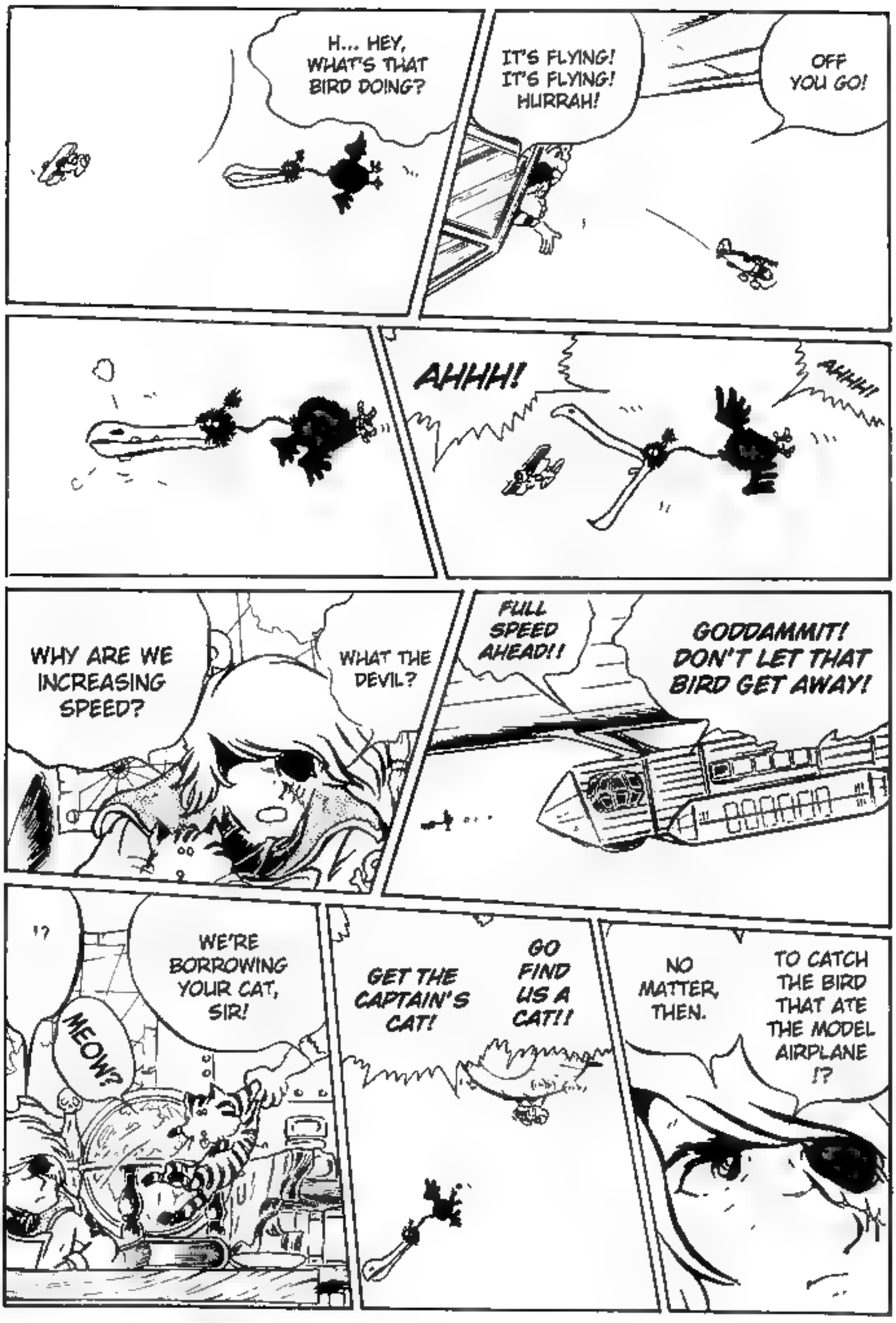

YEAH, NO MAN COULD EVER LIVE THERE!
I FELT LIKE THOSE WOMEN WITH THEIR EYELINER AND PERFUME WOULD DRIVE ME CRAZY!
ALL HANDS, FALL BACK!
I SEE. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
WELCOME BACK. I'M ALMOST DONE HERE.
YATTERAN!
SFX: ROOOAAARRR!


DON'T MIND THEM. THOSE MEN AREN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE.
I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE DEATH HERLOCK ANYMORE.
I'M CALCULATING OUR POSITION NOW.
WHERE ARE WE?
SFX: WHOOOOOOOOOOSH!
SFX: SWOOOOOSH!
SFX: VROOOOOM!

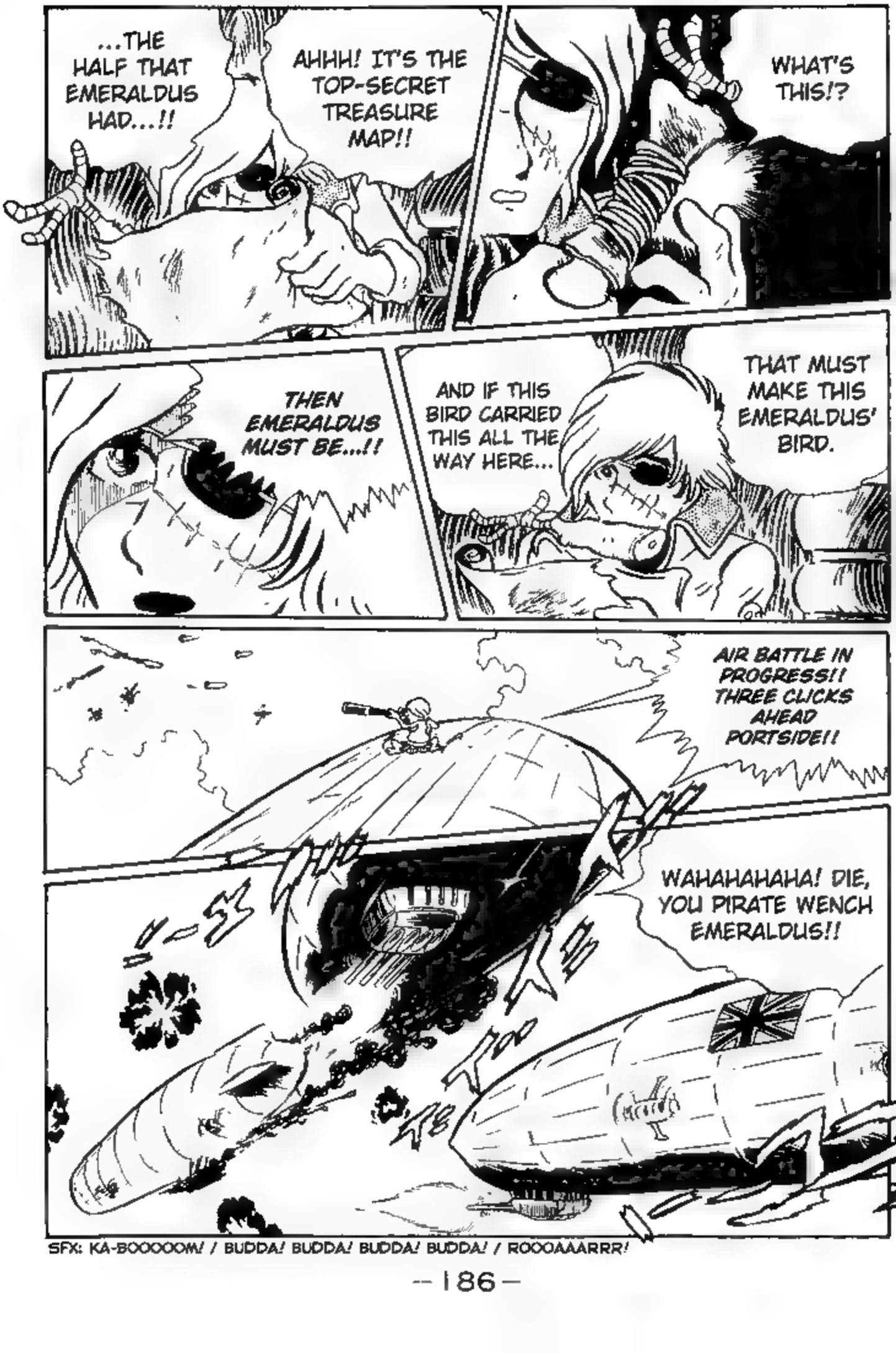

SFX: SPLASH! SPLASH!
THAT WAS QUITE A RIDE. THE SPEEDOMETER WENT OFF THE CHARTS AND THE COMPASS IS IN DISARRAY
AIEE EEE!


SFX: VROOOOOM!
WE HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT YOU DOWN ON SIGHT!
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, QUEEN EMERALDUS!!
NOW, GO TO HELL!!
THANKS TO THAT MONSOON OR HURRICANE OR WHATEVER IT WAS, YOU'VE SAILED RIGHT INTO OUR FORMATION!
.....


DEATH HERALD
TIME TO LET HER FLY!!
I DID IT!
LET'S GO AND HAVE A LOOKSEE!
HEY! FIRST MATE YATTERAN'S FLYING HIS NEW AIRPLANE!
NOW AS FOR THE TOP-SECRET TREASURE MAP...
NO MATTER, THEN.
SIR! FIRST MATE YATTERAN IS FLYING HIS NEW MODEL AIRPLANE AND EVERYONE'S GATHERED AROUND HIM TO GET A GOOD LOOK.
WHY ARE WE TILTING?
SFX: STAGGER!


H... HEY, WHAT'S THAT BIRD DOING?
IT'S FLYING! IT'S FLYING! HURRAH!
OFF YOU GO!
AHHH!
AHHH!
WHY ARE WE INCREASING SPEED?
WHAT THE DEVIL?
FULL SPEED AHEAD!!
GODDAMMIT! DON'T LET THAT BIRD GET AWAY!
!?
WE'RE BORROWING YOUR CAT, SIR!
MEOW?
GET THE CAPTAIN'S CAT!
GO FIND US A CAT!!
NO MATTER, THEN.
TO CATCH THE BIRD THAT ATE THE MODEL AIRPLANE !?

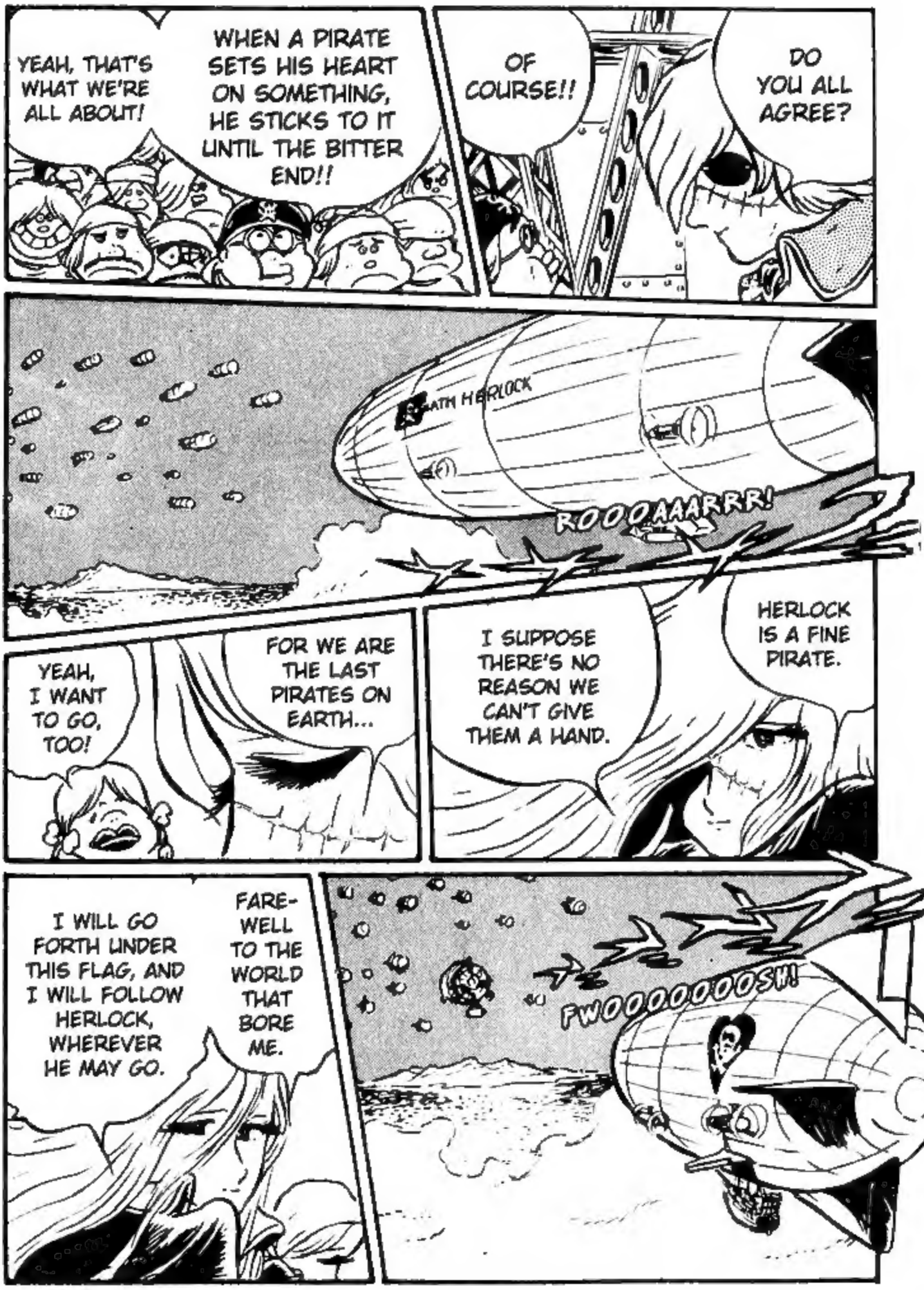
COME ON CAT! EAT THAT GODDAMN BIRD!
SFX: CHOMP!
GO! GO! GO! GO!
THAT'S IT JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER...
MEOW! MEOW! MEOW! MEOW!
LET'S ROAST THIS GODDAMN BIRD AND EAT IT!
IT'S NO USE. IT ALREADY SWALLOWED MY AIRPLANE.
YOU! TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE BIRD!
I SUPPOSE YOU DO.
BUT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE BIGGEST PIECE, SINCE THIS BIRD ATE MY AIRPLANE.
LET ME HAVE SOME, TOO!
CAPTAIN!!
DELISH!


...THE HALF THAT EMERALDUS HAD...!!
AHHH! IT'S THE TOP-SECRET TREASURE MAP!!
WHAT'S THIS!?
THEN EMERALDUS MUST BE...!!
AND IF THIS BIRD CARRIED THIS ALL THE WAY HERE...
THAT MUST MAKE THIS EMERALDUS' BIRD.
AIR BATTLE IN PROGRESS!! THREE CLICKS AHEAD PORTSIDE!!
WAHAHAHAHA! DIE, YOU PIRATE WENCH EMERALDUS!!

SFX: KA-BOOOOOM! / BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! / ROOOAAARRR!

KABOOOOOOM!
ROOOMRRR!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
HERLOCK!!
KABOOOOOOM!
CRASH!
POW!
POW!
POW!
POW!

AND THANKS FOR THE TREASURE MAP!
GIVE IT A WARM BURIAL, IF YOU WILL.
I'M RETURNING YOUR BIRD, OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT, AT LEAST.
IT'S ON A SMALL DESERTED ISLAND FOUR CLICKS SOUTH OF HERE.
WHERE IS THE TREA-SURE...?
THAT'S IT!!
THEY MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'RE HEADING THERE AHEAD OF TIME!!
L...LOOK ABOVE THE ISLAND...
FAREWELL, EMERALDUS! I'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD!
I WILL GO, EVEN IF THE TREASURE IS GONE.
YET I WILL GO TO THAT ISLAND, EVEN IF IT MAY BE AN AMBUSH.


YEAH, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT!
WHEN A PIRATE SETS HIS HEART ON SOMETHING, HE STICKS TO IT UNTIL THE BITTER END!!
OF COURSE!!
DO YOU ALL AGREE?
ROOOAAARRR!
YEAH, I WANT TO GO, TOO!
FOR WE ARE THE LAST PIRATES ON EARTH...
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO REASON WE CAN'T GIVE THEM A HAND.
HERLOCK IS A FINE PIRATE.
I WILL GO FORTH UNDER THIS FLAG, AND I WILL FOLLOW HERLOCK, WHEREVER HE MAY GO.
FARE-WELL TO THE WORLD THAT BORE ME.
FWOOOOOOOSH!

The Queen Emeraldus vanished into the sky following the Death Herlock. As it vanished in thin air flying its Jolly Roger, no one knew where it went.

But from time to time, those who fly say they see two shadows flying together in the sky. These may be the ghosts of the Emeraldus and the Herlock...

〔 Fin 〕

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

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